



هذا من الأصل

ENT
DAY
1997

THE INDEPENDENT

Thursday 9 October 1997 45p (IR50p) No 3,423

INSIDE TODAY

THE EYE

He's hip, he's cool, he's a cult. The new Rolf Harris



TODAY'S NEWS

Tories turn on MPs

A Conservative version of the peasants' revolt convulsed the party conference in Blackpool yesterday. Representatives attacked the disloyal behaviour of grandees and MPs - described by Lord Archer as forming "a circular firing squad" - and promised their new leader William Hague that he would not have to endure what John Major had gone through. A rule change for future leadership contests suggested by Lord Archer, giving grassroots Tories half the votes would, if implemented, make Mr Hague more secure and might end the Tory habit of disposing of their leaders by parliamentary putsch. Page 6

Hunger in Paradise

People in the remote and beautiful highlands of Papua New Guinea are dying of hunger, as the long dry spell caused by El Niño, the weather-changing phenomenon, destroys the crops. Richard Lloyd Parry, the first Western reporter to gain access to an area where tragedy looms, files his exclusive report on page 5.

The supercashcard

The Royal Bank of Scotland's 2.5 million customers yesterday became the only group in the UK with free access to any of the country's 22,000-plus cash machines. Britain is the only country in the world to have a cash machine network which is not available to anyone with a cashpoint card. Page 22

Market crash warning

The stockmarket took fright yesterday when Alan Greenspan, the influential chairman of the US Federal Reserve, delivered a shock warning that America's economic boom was unsustainable. With the tenth anniversary of the last crash approaching, his remarks were seen as a deliberate effort to puncture Wall Street's share bubble. Shares duly dived. Page 22

Decaf coffee beans

First genetically cloned sheep. Now caffeine-free coffee beans. It may sound like a fantasy but ForBio, a small Australian biotechnology company, has found a way of growing coffee beans without the caffeine and improving the flavour of the world's favourite beverage to boot. Not surprisingly the world's biggest coffee producers who spend billions on chemically removing caffeine are sniffing around. Page 24

SEEN & HEARD

Times may be changing, but the Wee Frees are not about to give up their hard line on dancing. Grooving on the dance floor is as sinful as ever in the eyes of the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland. And, lest anyone forget, the current issue of its magazine includes a reprinted article on the subject from the 1920s. People who attend all sorts of dances are labelled "the frivolous, the empty-headed, the vain, the silly, the dissipated and the dissolute", and the act of dancing is derided as being "for mere sensual enjoyment". The reiteration of policy was prompted by rumours that some members of the church have taken to the dance floor recently at weddings.

41 WEATHER The Eye, page 10
TELEVISION The Eye, page 12
CROSSWORDS Page 32 and
the Eye, page 9

Web address: <http://www.independent.co.uk>



A new ruling from the Lord Chief Justice: Let's talk about dope



Joint effort: The painter Caroline Coon, founder of Release, the drugs advice charity, who is supporting the campaign to legalise marijuana

Photograph: David Rose

The country's most senior judge called for an open debate on decriminalising the use of cannabis. Our Legal Affairs Editor says Lord Bingham has reignited a controversial debate that the Government wishes would go away.

Yesterday's statement by the Lord Chief Justice gave a significant boost to the growing campaign for the decriminalisation of soft drugs. "It is a subject that deserves, in my judgment, detached, objective, independent consideration," he said.

The campaign to ditch a law which to many has been long discredited, has been led by the *Independent on Sunday* and a growing number of celebrities and public figures in the face of government hostility.

High-profile figures such as Sir Paul McCartney, have declared their backing for the decriminalisation of cannabis. But the Lord Chief Justice's support for a detailed examination of the subject is the first contribution to the current debate from a senior member of the legal establishment.

Others backing the campaign range right across public life, and include the authors Martin Amis and Fay Weldon, Alan Yentob, director of television on the BBC, playwright Harold Pinter, Sir Kit McMahon, former chairman of the Midland Bank, actor Richard Wilson, the Body Shop owner Anita Rodick and Richard Branson.

Lord Bingham emphasised that he was not expressing a concluded view on decriminalisation, but welcomed the recent decision by the independent Police Foundation to mount an inquiry into the entire issue.

"It may very well be that the result of such consideration would be that to ticker with the current prohibition would be madness, but that doesn't seem to me an argument against considering the sug-

gestion," he said during his second set-piece news conference, which is now to become an annual autumn event.

If an objective, independent study showed that existing law was 100 per cent correct, that would reassure everybody, he said.

His remarks came less than a week after Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, ruled out any moves towards decriminalisation of cannabis in his speech to the Labour Party conference, and a week ahead of the appointment of the new "drugs tsar" who will co-ordinate a Whitehall-wide offensive to combat drug abuse.

Tony Blair and his Government have fought shy of the subject ever since Clare Short, now Secretary of State for International Development, dared to speculate openly about legalising

leading to high rates of absenteeism, aggravation of mental illness and more people switching to hard drugs.

Jane Betts, the mother of Leah Betts, who died after taking ecstasy at her 18th birthday party, said: "I view with worry proposals like this because very often the outcome is predetermined."

The Conservative home affairs spokesman, Sir Brian Mawhinney, said: "This party does not believe that drugs should be decriminalised."

Brian Mackenzie, president of the Police Superintendents' Association, said he opposed any move towards decriminalisation. "Any relaxation in the attitude towards prosecuting people for the possession of drugs would be a wrong step. It would send totally the wrong signal."

"By all means have a debate, but I think the vast majority of the public agrees with us and is against legalisation or decriminalisation. To do so would simply increase drug usage and that would be a mad move."

A spokesman for the Association of Chief Police Officers said: "More research is always welcome in any area, but we support the Government's policy and oppose the concept of decriminalisation."

Lord Bingham also used the press conference to welcome the Government's decision to make the European Convention on Human Rights a part of British law while warning of the consequences for the media. "I do think this will lead inevitably to the development in this country of a law of privacy," he said. But he emphasised that the convention also protected the press's right to free speech.

"What is going to have to be confronted is the demarcation boundary between free speech and privacy," he said. In deciding which side to come down on, the courts would apply a test of public interest, he said.

The reporting of wrongdoing by an individual in public office would be considered to be in the public interest and justify intrusion into their privacy but the same would not apply to matters affecting their private lives which did not affect their office, he said.

Maurice Lacroix
Switzerland



Tiago

From £450 - £650

- Precious Metal/Stainless Steel
- Sapphire Crystal Glass
- 100 Metres Water Resistance
- Concealed Clasp
- Screw-In Crown

The Maurice Lacroix Swiss watch collection can be found in selected branches of the Goldsmiths Group, the largest network of Authorised Agents in the country. The Goldsmiths Group is one of the country's leading retailers of fine jewellery and prestigious watches with more than 120 branches nationwide.

GOLDSMITHS



WALKER & HALL

THE MARK OF A FINE JEWELLER

For further information and details of your nearest agent telephone FREE on 0800 Goldsmiths (0800 465376).

£1.99
ts

TOES ONLY.

هذا من الأصل

Brighter than 10 million suns

The star at the centre of this picture is brighter than 10 million Suns, and so big that if it were at the centre of our solar system it would swallow the Earth. Yet it has taken the power of the Hubble Space Telescope to produce this detailed image of the "Pistol Star", which lies about 25,000 light-years away from Earth, towards the centre of our galaxy, the Milky Way.

Astronomers reckon that it is only between one and three million years old, and that when it originally formed it may have had a mass up to 200 times greater than our Sun's – before it threw off much of that in a series of violent eruptions.

Those eruptions formed the pink "clouds" which appear to surround the star – a stellar nebula which the HST had to peer through in order to determine the detail of the picture; the Pistol star is not visible to the eye, but lies beyond the constellation Sagittarius, in the dust clouds of the Milky Way. The HST detected it using the in-

frared rays that penetrate the dust and reach Earth.

The star is so energetic that it gives off as much energy in six seconds as our Sun does in a whole year. The nebula is so big – four light-years across – that it would nearly span the distance from the Sun to Alpha Centauri, the nearest star to Earth's solar system.

"This star may have been more massive than any other star, and now it is without question still among the most massive – even at the low end of our estimates," says Don Figer of the University of California at Los Angeles. "Its formation and life stages will provide important tests for new theories about star birth and evolution."

A few million years is a remarkably early age for a star to be so energetic. Its size also indicates that in a few million years it will certainly explode as a supernova, throwing out its contents in a massive explosion.

— Charles Arthur



The Queen says the world is changing too fast. But wasn't it ever thus?

Anyone who has had to ask a five-year-old how to program the video, or stared in horror at a computer screen, will empathise. But was the Queen right when she said society was moving too fast for "older" people? Jojo Moyes hears that her grandmother was probably saying the same thing.

The Queen's admission yesterday that even she felt bewildered by the rapid rate of technological change brought a clamour of agreement from those still stuck on the hard shoulder of the information superhighway.

In a speech to Pakistan's Parliament, the Queen, 71, said: "I sometimes sense that the world is changing almost too fast for its inhabitants, at least for us older ones."

The veteran writer and broadcaster Ludovic Kennedy, 77, was among those who

agreed. "What she has said is absolutely right. For old dogs like us, new tricks are simply unacceptable," he said. "The world is changing so fast we just can't keep pace with it ... I can't even cope with a word processor, never mind the Internet. Everything is getting more and more complicated."

According to the Age Concern spokesman, Margaret McLellan, many elderly people felt the same way. "Feeling too old to catch up with the modern world can begin when people are as early as 40 or 50, and it is a feeling which gets worse as people get older," she said.

"But there should be a choice – some people see new developments as a challenge and try very hard to bridge the age gap."

According to Dr Jon Turney, lecturer in science communication at University College London, much of the disquiet felt by the elderly today has to do with the biotechnological changes that have sped through since the 1980s. "I suspect the feeling is keener and more affecting now than it has been in the past. If you went back 100 years there was disquiet about

the changes taking place to people's lives. With railways [in the 1840s] you

had speed for the first time, and people were generally frightened of it," Professor Brock said. "Many talked about the new technology with some dismay."

But not all older people are pessimistic about their position in the Brave New World. The former TV campaigner Mary Whitehouse, 87, said the elderly should not just give up. "All it takes is a bit of teamwork between the young and the old," she said.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

The total figures, collated by Coopers & Lybrand, are modest compared to the billions spent on other forms of advertising.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

The total figures, collated by Coopers & Lybrand, are modest compared to the billions spent on other forms of advertising.

While for those who can, it will soon be possible to e-mail your fridge

A high-speed, low-cost connection to the Internet via your electricity meter? Charles Arthur, Science Editor, looks at a breakthrough by an electricity generator and a telecommunications company.

The day is fast approaching when you can e-mail your fridge to check what's inside, or log on remotely to your video recorder to ensure it's going to tape your favourite afternoon programme.

The medium that will allow this totally connected world is not futuristic fibre-optic cable: it's the humble three-phase electricity cable. In time, the whole of your home could work like the sophisticated local area networks (LANs) used by larger companies – but linked by its three-pin plugs instead of computer plugs.

The first fruits of this revolution appeared yesterday, when the electricity company Norweb and the telecommunications company Nortel announced that they have worked out how to send Internet data over the mains power supply into the home at up to 1 megabit per second – 20 times faster than the fastest existing telephone modem.

The system receives radio-frequency signals sent over the power lines from the local sub-

station, and converts them back at the customer's electricity meter into packets of computer data. All the customer needs is a small box at the meter, and a computer cable and card for their PC.

"I've been in telecomm research and development for 30 years, and this has been a Holy Grail," said Ian Vance, head of R+D for Nortel. "With this, the Net becomes everything that has been promised: you can download video and CDs, play high-speed games, hold videoconferences."

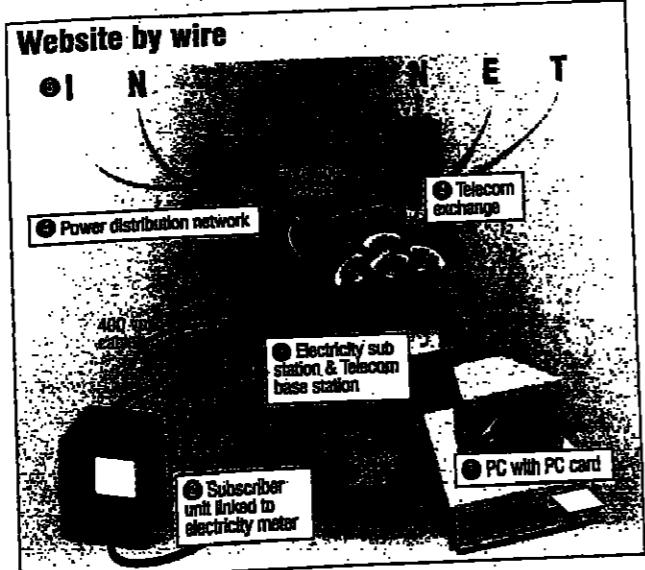
Though the initial use, in trials in 2,000 homes in Norweb's heartland in the north-west of England next spring, will simply be to provide a high-speed Internet link for home computers, John Laycock, a senior researcher at Nortel, said:

"Having an Internet address for every plug in the home would be the Utopia."

That would allow the ultimate connected home, in which you could e-mail `fridge@home`, and study the picture relayed by the videocamera to see if you need milk, or turn the lights off and burglar alarm on, all from a remote location, using your own password. First, though, researchers must do more work to see how wiring systems in homes affect data transmission.

Initially the two companies will aim to offer a flat-rate, permanent connection to the Internet for Norweb customers who want it. They have tested it, and found it does not interfere with any domestic appliances such as stereos or radios.

The system might seem like



the death knell for telecommunications companies, since everyone who wants to get on the Net will have electricity. But even Norweb disagrees. "I think the demand for the Internet is such that it will find its place alongside other delivery systems," said Peter Dudley, a vice-president.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

The total figures, collated by Coopers & Lybrand, are modest compared to the billions spent on other forms of advertising.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4 million (£134m) for "banners" on Internet sites from April to June. The total for the first half of the year was \$344m – a 322 per cent increase from the first half of 1996.

People are definitely keen to get onto the global network – something which advertisers have been quick to recognise. A survey released yesterday showed that advertisers spent \$214.4

Egon Ronay forces guide publishers to close

The food critic Egon Ronay has forced the publishers of his world-famous restaurant guides to close down after a High Court judge was told their methods "stink".

Mr Ronay claimed that Leading Guides International failed to pay promptly the inspectors who tour Britain filing reports for the guides.

He said the company owed him more than £37,000 and almost £200,000 to 20 creditors.

The company had claimed that it was already in voluntary liquidation and would be able to pay off its debts – some of which were owed to the food inspectors – within a year.

But James Munby QC, for

Mr Ronay, said: "This is a matter which stinks and is a case with a crying need for a compulsory liquidation so that a wholly independent liquidator can investigate matters."

He said "sinister connotations" could be read into the company changing its name after it was served with the first winding-up petition and again after the current one.

Mr Munby called for an independent investigation, claiming that the company had been involved in unlawful trading while insolvent, had used its complex group structure to the detriment of creditors, and that the £400,000 offer was put up to avoid independent scrutiny.

Granting a compulsory winding-up order, Mr Justice Rafferty said: "The evidence as a whole points to there being very grave suspicions of the property of this company." The order was opposed by Richbell, an associated company of Leading Guides, which claimed it was owed £1m.

Mr Ronay founded the guides in 1956 and sold them in 1985 to the Automobile Association, which in turn sold them to Leading Guides, now known as Global Infocom Ltd. Mr Ronay, who was awarded punitive costs, said he would make an announcement today about the future of the books.

— Kate Watson-Smyth

Heroin gangs blamed for eight murders

At least eight murders in London during the past three years are believed to be linked to the thriving Turkish-controlled heroin trade, one of the country's most senior police officers said yesterday.

Up to 80 per cent of the heroin entering Britain is controlled by Turkish gangs based in the capital and the Southeast, according to the National Criminal Intelligence Service

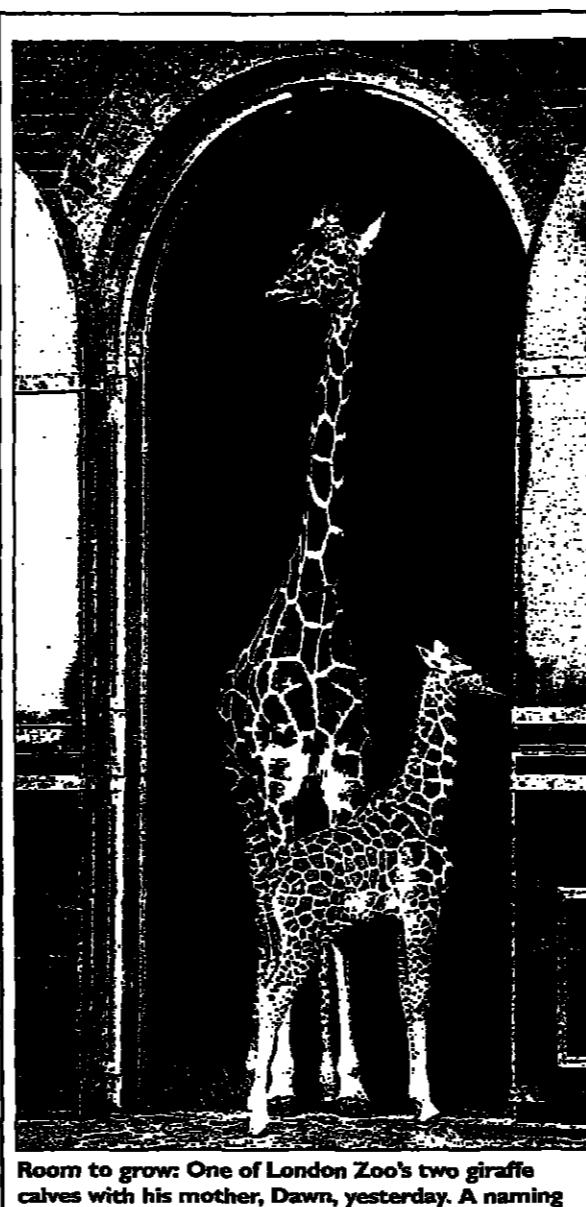
(NCIS). About 20 criminal families and gangs are understood to be responsible for controlling the drugs which are being smuggled into the UK in record amounts.

The new director of NCIS, John Abbott, disclosed that his organisation was becoming increasingly concerned about the heroin trade and Turkish organised crime. He also disclosed that the majority of the

150 criminal gangs that NCIS targets were not run by traditional gangster families, in the tradition of the Krays. He added that the criminal groupings can range from three to 200 members.

After London, the northwest of England, particularly Merseyside and Manchester, had the highest concentration of organised criminals.

— Jason Bennett



Room to grow: One of London Zoo's two giraffe calves with his mother, Dawn, yesterday. A naming competition is being launched. Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

Diana police search for 112,000 Fiat Unos

Police investigating the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, are trying to trace 112,000 Fiat Unos – every car of that type ever registered in the greater Paris area.

Investigators believe that a Fiat Uno may unwittingly have caused the accident on 31 August which killed Diana, her companion Dodi Fayed, and the driver, Henri Paul.

The possibility that a second car was involved has never been completely excluded and is now being taken more and more seriously by the examining judge and detectives leading the inquiry.

Fragments of yellow plastic from the tail light of a Fiat Uno were found near the crash scene, alongside glass from the

front headlight of the Mercedes which was carrying Diana's party. In the last few days, a police laboratory has identified a streak of white paint found on the right wing of the Mercedes as possibly coming from a Fiat Uno (although it could also have come from several other makes of car).

The evidence is sufficiently strong for Judge Hervé Sébastien to order police to locate every Fiat Uno registered in the Ile de France in the 11 years in which the car was manufactured, from 1983 to 1994.

Investigators believe that the Mercedes, travelling at up to 100mph to escape pursuing press photographers, may have clipped the slower-moving Fiat just before it entered an under-

pass beneath the Place de l'Alma in central Paris.

This may explain why the Mercedes spun out of control and struck a pillar in the central reservation before rebounding against the opposite wall.

The investigators are said to have rejected all possibility that the low-powered Fiat was connected with the press pack or impeded the Mercedes deliberately (as suggested by some of the wilder conspiracy theories still circulating about the accident).

What remains unclear is how the small car – if it existed – avoided the wildly spinning Mercedes and why the driver fled the scene without stopping. — John Lichfield

Schoolgirl joins board of Mensa

A 17-year-old schoolgirl has become the youngest Mensa member to be elected to its ruling body.

Hayley Abdullah, an A-level pupil who joined the Elite club when she was just 10, was picked for the Mensa board in an election by 2,500 of society's members.

Hayley, from Peterborough,

Cambridgeshire, has applied to Cambridge University to study law and counts learning Chinese among her hobbies.

She said: "I felt that there needed to be more things done for junior members of Mensa, and that I had an ideal opportunity to ensure they were fairly represented.

"I hope for Mensa to grow

bigger and better, and to develop a stronger image with a lot less stereotyping."

Only 2 per cent of applicants satisfy Mensa's requirement of a minimum IQ of 148.

One of Hayley's first duties when the board meets later this month will be to elect a new chairman to replace Sir Clive Sinclair

Longer term for dangerous prisoner

Britain's most dangerous prisoner – who has bent cell doors with his bare hands – had seven years tagged on to his jail sentence yesterday after admitting taking three fellow inmates hostage in a bid to escape.

Michael Peterson, who changed his name to Charles Bronson, told prison officers that he had had "a bad day" after bundling the captives into his cell and threatening to snap their necks and cut their throats unless he was freed.

Bronson, 44, has spent 21 of the past 25 years in solitary confinement because of dangerous behavioural problems. A court at the Old Bailey was told.

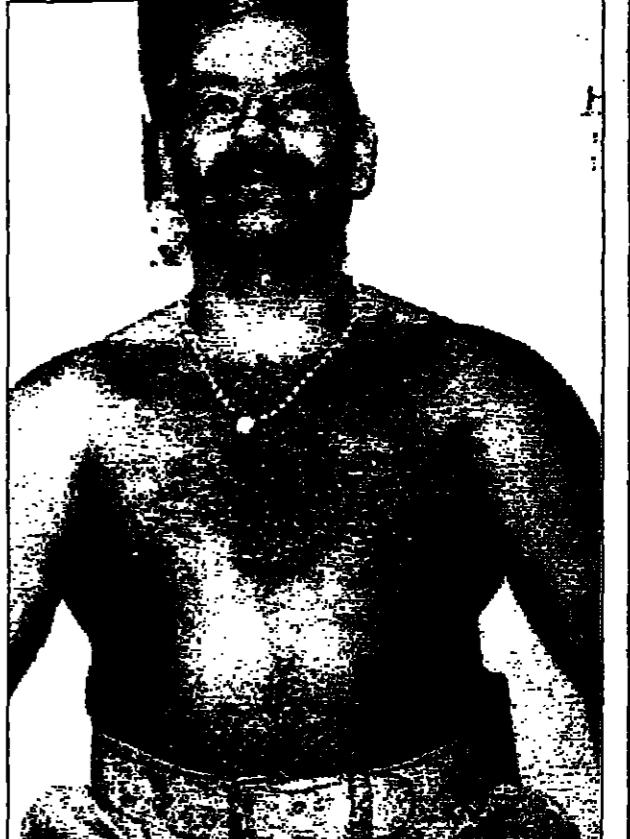
On 27 September last year, he exploded into a rage shortly after breakfast at Belmarsh Prison, south-east London, grabbing two Iraqi prisoners and his only "friend" before tying them up and demanding a helicopter and a sub-machine gun.

Jeremy Donne, for the prosecution, said Bronson first said he intended flying to Cuba in the helicopter before changing his plan and asking to be taken to Heathrow, from where a jet was supposed to fly him to Libya.

If his demands were not met within an hour, he told negotiators: "You will have to bring in four bodyguards and four body bags. I have a blade and will cut them up. None of us are going to leave, even if it means getting one in the head. I am number one hostage-taker."

Eventually, he surrendered without further incident.

Asked how he pleaded to



Charles Bronson: Britain's most disruptive prisoner

charges of threatening to kill the hostages, he replied: "Guilty – as guilty as OJ Simpson" and "Guilty – as guilty as Adolf Hitler."

The Iraqi prisoners are accused of hijacking a Sudan Airways jet to London last year.

Mr Donne said Bronson was considered by the Prison Service to be the most disruptive inmate in the country.

He was transferred to Belmarsh in 1996 where governors and prison staff put a great deal of effort into his social development. But, he added, Bronson "had a clear problem in getting on with other prisoners."

He is a large, strong man who keeps himself extremely fit and has been known to bend cell doors with his bare hands," Mr Donne told the court.

"Because of his strength and unpredictable behaviour and attitude to other prisoners, he has spent 21 of his last 25 years in segregated units – effectively in solitary confinement."

Isabella Forshall, for the defence, said Bronson had told her: "It was a bad day. I hope it will never happen again."

She said his management in prison had sometimes been exacerbated by conditions and prolonged isolation which left him phobic with other people. He was so isolated, he once asked for a blow-up doll – not for sexual reasons, but for someone to talk to. It was not granted.

— Steve Boggan

Dixons SAVE UP TO 50%

BRITAIN'S BEST RANGE OF ACCESSORIES

DURACELL MN1500 'AA' SIZE BATTERIES 12-PACK. Full alkaline power. Was £7.49. £6.49

Also available: DURACELL MN1500 'C' SIZE DURACELL MN1500 'D' SIZE. Were £7.49 EACH. 6 pack £6.49

sale

EXTRA 10% OFF ALL HEADPHONES AND MINI-SPEAKERS THIS WEEKEND

CORDLESS HEADPHONES

MATSUI JR100
INFRARED CORDLESS HEADPHONES. Up to 7m range. Was £49.99. In-store Price £27.99. Dixons Deal £25.19 EXCLUSIVE TO DSG RETAIL LTD. **SAVE £24** **SAVE AN EXTRA 10%**

PHILIPS 380

INFRARED CORDLESS HEADPHONES. Rechargeable. Volume control on headset. Was £59.99. In-store Price £24.99. Dixons Deal £44.99 **SAVE £15** **SAVE AN EXTRA 10%**

MINI-SPEAKER

ACTIVE MINI-SPEAKERS
Ideal for travel or holidays. Amplified sound. 1.3 watt output power. In-store Price £4.99. Dixons Deal £3.49 **NEW**

REMOTE CONTROLS

ONE FOR ALL
BIG EASY 4 REMOTE CONTROL. Easy to use big buttons. Key magic allows you to add additional features. Was £19.99. Dixons Deal £13.49 **SAVE £6.50**

LESS THAN HALF PRICE

Varta ALKALINE 'AA' SIZE BATTERIES 10-PACK. Full alkaline power. Total Separate Selling Price £10.25. Was £4.99. £3.99

PRICE CHECK

PRICE – WE CAN'T BEATEN Every week we check the price of leading products in the national press to make sure that Dixons Price Check price can't be beaten. If you find the same product cheaper locally, we'll be pleased to refund the difference. Just notify us within 7 days of purchase. The product must be new, complete and exclude for immediate delivery. Mail order prices excluded.

UNIVERSAL REMOTE CONTROL Pre-programmed for easy set-up. Was £24.99. £22.99 **SAVE £2** **REPLACES UP TO 3 HANDSETS**

3 IN 1 REMOTE CONTROL Operates most brands of TV, video and satellite systems. • Teletext with Fastext. Was £22.99. Dixons Deal £17.99 **SAVE £5** **REPLACES UP TO 3 HANDSETS**

Dixons

There's a Great Deal going on

Web site: www.dixons.co.uk

Now you don't have to turn a blind eye to those difficult marks that conventional cleaners shy away from. **BAR KEEPERS FRIEND** gets a grip with even the most stubborn stains.

Kitchen worktops, white sinks, tiles, stainless steel, saucepans, even bone china – Just one application of **BAR KEEPERS FRIEND** effectively removes stains, without scratching.

LOOK OUT FOR
BAR KEEPERS FRIEND
AT A LOCAL BRANCH OF TESCO,
JOHN LEWIS PARTNERSHIP,
LAKELAND LIMITED, BOOTS,
WITFROSE OR INDEPENDENT
HARDWARE STORES.

NO MORE STAINS...



هذا من الأصل

El Nino wrecks havoc in the Gardens of Plenty



El Nino, the climatic phenomenon that is changing the weather all over the world, is killing people in Papua New Guinea. Drought has destroyed the crops, and many more deaths may be ahead. Richard Lloyd Parry was the first Western reporter to gain access to this remote, beautiful but tragic area.

It was the sixth funeral in the village of Sakalem since the drought began, said the clan leader, and the biggest of them all – more than 100 people had gathered from all over the district, dressed in cheap colourful clothes and the distinctive knitted hats of the New Guinea Highlands.

The first one to perish had been a 15-year-old boy: then there was an old man and an old woman. But the two who died after that were grown men, followed by a baby who mother couldn't produce enough milk. The most recent victim was Kaup Kauga, a chief of the Aika clan and a man popular throughout the district, although he died in much the same way as all of them.

Shortly after the bitter frost, which froze soil already singed from months of drought, Kaup Kauga ate a sweet potato which had been lying in the ground. The tuber was bad; the chief, who was only in his forties, became ill. There was nothing good to feed him, and he grew worse. By the time he took

him down to the little clinic in the village of Tambul, he was dying. "His stomach was all shrunk, because he had eaten so little," said Nison Kupe, who works for the Tambul district office. "If they had brought him in earlier, maybe they could have helped him."

They took the chief to the nearest doctor in the town of Mount Hagen, a bone-rattling two-hour journey in a four-wheel drive, through knee-deep streams and along rocky unssealed roads. A week ago he died there, and yesterday they buried him in Sakalem.

There wasn't much visible grief, although there isn't much energy for grief in the Highlands these days. Four more people are dying of food poisoning, according to the new clan chieftain; he was quite confident of more funerals.

Many of the children were listless; nearly all of them have diarrhoea and recently specks of blood have been appearing in it. At the Tambul clinic, the nurses have treated five or six times as many malnutrition cases than usual, and last month 41 children under five were treated for pneumonia. There has been one death from suspected typhus and most alarming of all, emergency first aid cases are up – people who have stabbed or beaten one another up in fights over food.

As many as 600 have died in neighbouring West Papua, part of Indonesia. So far as anyone knows, nobody in Papua New Guinea itself has literally died of hunger. It is too early to call this a famine; although time may turn it into one. But the sit-



Drought: A woman weeping by her dried-up garden in PNG's Highlands, where people's means of survival has been destroyed

Photograph: Palani Mohan

uation in Tambul is a reminder that you do not need outright starvation to kill people, that droughts and crop failures have many different ways of stealing lives, and that disasters of this kind rarely happen evenly.

In many parts of Papua New Guinea, life is continuing almost as normal, despite the hardship caused by the long dry spell. But in Tambul, an area of the Western Highlands with a population of some 50,000, people are already dying as a result of the food shortages.

No one on the ground is in any doubt that the next two weeks will be critical: either merciful weather and effective

relief will bring the situation under control; or Tambul faces a disaster in which the individual fate of Chiel Kaup will soon become a distant memory.

If the Highlands of Papua New Guinea are remembered at all by the world at large it is, ironically, as Gardens of Plenty.

Of all the world's tribal people, those who live here remained undisturbed by modernity the longest – until 1933, decades after the coastal areas were settled by Dutch, British and eventually German colonists. The tribes who lived here used stone tools, wore ceremonial tattoos and face paint and fought one another in vi-

cious feuds which could carry on for generations. They had not discovered glass, or even the wheel. But they had perfected a beautiful form of garden agriculture – mounds of tilled earth containing beans, sugar cane, yams and sweet potatoes, carefully drained and fenced off from domesticated hogs.

Today these gardens are a waste land. Throughout South and East Asia, as a result of the atmospheric phenomenon known as El Nino, the usual cycles of heavy tropical rain have been delayed. In Tambul, local people say that there has been no heavy rain since January. Fleshy produce like tomatoes

quickly dried up, and cabbages are withered and leathery, leaving only the sweet potatoes.

But a second disaster struck in August – hard frost, which killed even the potato plants. In the last week there have been rain showers, but this has made things worse. The streams are no longer dried out, but the moisture has speeded up the decomposition of the tubers in the earth and stimulated pests without quenching the soil.

"Even if rain fell tomorrow, the situation would still be serious," said Merly Kuruma, director of the government agricultural agency in Tambul. "These people need food to eat,

but they also need things to plant for next year. But here things grow slowly and it will be months before their new crops are ready, so they need to be fed throughout that period as well."

People walking home from the funeral said that they have not eaten since Monday. The school is open only in the morning, and even then fewer than half its pupils are turning up. Children can be seen sitting in the fields hunting for insects to eat, and in other areas, people are eating ferns, as well as possums and rats. It is a sign of how serious things have become that many families have started selling their

only form of capital – their pigs – to raise cash to go shopping in the inflated markets.

The concept of "living memory" is a limited one in these parts, where few people live past 60. But the only year comparable to this was in 1942, nine years after the Highlands emerged from the Stone Age. "That was when I was a small boy," said one old man yesterday, "and there was a second frost, even worse than the first. It drove all the people out, it was two years before they came back. We expect that big frost any day, but this time I will not escape. I just want to die and be buried here on my land."

ANYONE
FOR A
GOALS?

ON CABLE AND SATELLITE

8.30pm Q&A

9.00pm World News Europe

9.30pm Insight

10.00pm News Highlights/World Business Today

CNN
INTERNATIONAL

1997 'Top Direct Lender Over Two Years' – What Mortgage Magazine.

The Chancellor can't lower your mortgage rate, but Direct Line can.

1997 'Top Direct Lender Over Two Years' – What Mortgage Magazine.

DIRECT LINE
MORTGAGES

0181 649 9099 0161 831 9099 0141 221 9099
LONDON MANCHESTER GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. IND148
www.directline.co.uk

7/ THE TORIES

Essex man is new darling of the right

A rising star of the buoyant Tory right has emerged in Blackpool. Iain Duncan-Smith, the latest standard-bearer of the Euro-sceptic tendency.

Introducing the Conservatives' new social security spokesman at a fringe meeting yesterday, the Buckingham MP John Bercow was fulsome in his praise. "For those of you who don't know Iain Duncan-Smith,

you soon will do," he said. "He is the sea-green incorruptible of the Conservative Party."

Asked yesterday whether he saw himself as a natural leader of the right, Mr Duncan-Smith replied: "I don't particularly believe in right and left. I think this is a battle of ideas."

He is certainly proud of his status as successor to Norman Tebbit's Chingford seat. Speaking alongside Lord Tebbit on Tuesday, he told his audience: "Here you have the maker and the man on the same platform."

However, he added later: "I will never be Norman. Norman is inimicable." He refused to



disown his predecessor's comments on race, while maintaining that as a member of the shadow cabinet he supported William Hague's dismissive line on the subject.

Elected in 1992, the former Scots Guards captain has risen

quickly to prominence. Colleagues admire his ability to master a brief and his uncompromising attitude. He was one of 26 Conservative MPs who voted against the Government over the Maastricht Treaty.

Dapper but prematurely

grey and balding at 43, "he wears a pinstripe well but the only thing about him much softer than Norman are his vowels," according to one commentator.

Mr Duncan-Smith may be

loyal to his leader now, but he did take an opportunity this week to take a swipe at John Major. Praising Hague's promise to oppose a single currency if a referendum were called, he added: "Imagine! A Conservative leader saying, 'We have made a decision!'"

Eurosceptic colleagues clearly feel that Mr Duncan-Smith is one to watch. He has been among a number of right-wingers who have made their presence very firmly felt during the week at Blackpool.

There may have been polite

Duncan-Smith: "I don't believe in left or right. This is a battle of ideas" Photograph: Tom Pilston

applause for both William Hague and John Major in the Winter Gardens, but out on the fringe the story was different.

While no one in the Tory Party would admit to being pleased by the disastrous result it suffered on May 1 this year, the tone in some quarters has been less than repentant. The party's Euro-sceptic wing have been out in force at the conference, reinforcing what they clearly see as a chance to grab the baton of power.

If Mr Duncan-Smith should see himself as a possible successor to Mr Hague, he will probably not be the only one. A big turnout is expected tonight for a fringe meeting to be addressed by Michael Portillo. Its title is intriguing, if ironic: "The ghost of Toryism past. The spirit of Conservatism future?"

Daily scheduled flights from London Luton one way fare.

Nice* from
£69

Madrid from
£69

Barcelona from
£69

Copenhagen from
£69

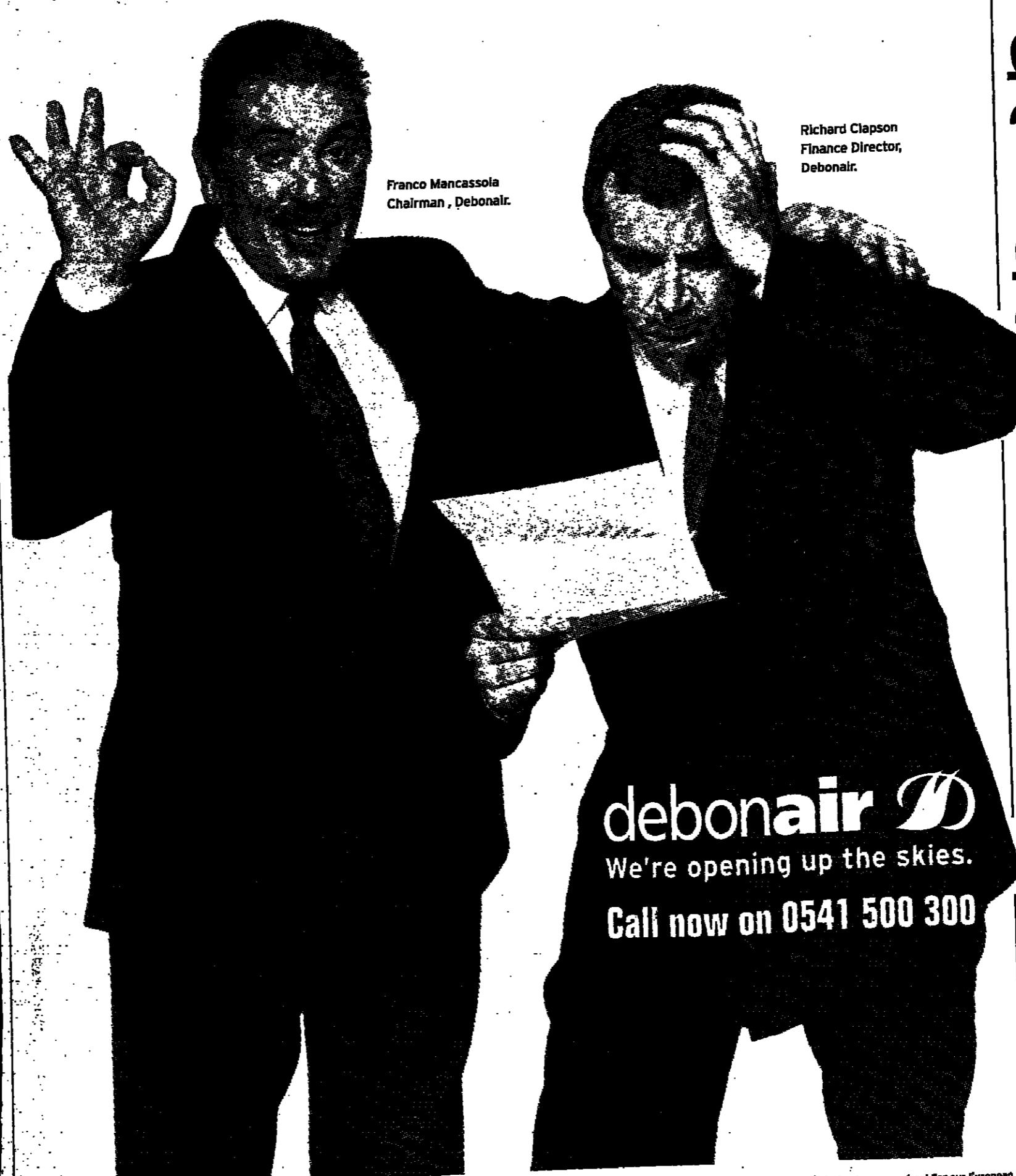
Munich from
£69

Rome from
£89

Dusseldorf (Monchengladbach) from
£59

Weekend Specials from
£74 return

Franco says "When Richard my Financial Director winces, I know I've got my prices just about right."



Franco Mancassola
Chairman, Debonair.

Richard Clapson
Finance Director,
Debonair.

debonair
We're opening up the skies.
Call now on 0541 500 300

Renewing in October or November?

Save up to

£50.

Save on home insurance in minutes
Just give us a call and you could save up to £50 a year with
Alliance & Leicester's buildings and contents insurance.
We'll give you an instant quote, instant discounts, even
instant cover.

More cover
for less money

- New for old cover
- 24-hour free legal and emergency helplines.
- Extra cover for stolen keys, freezer failure even wedding presents.
- Interest-free direct debit.

Call FREE now
0500 50 40 80

LINES OPEN 8AM - 8PM WEEKDAYS 9AM - NOON SATURDAY

ALLIANCE
LEICESTER

*Effective 13-12-97. Except Weekend Specials fares are one way. No round trip or Saturday night stay required, excluding tax and subject to availability. Join 'Destinations' 10 returns, one free. For our European Vacations brochure, call 01293 886006. Call us now or contact your travel agent.

Kohl backs Eurofighter

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government yesterday gave the green light for Germany to buy the controversial Eurofighter combat jet and said it was confident parliament would back its decision.

Volker Ruehe, the defence minister, said after a cabinet meeting that ministers had approved his plan to buy 180 Eurofighters at a total cost of 23 billion marks (£8.5bn).

Britain, which partners Germany in the project with Italy and Spain, said it was delighted by the decision. The lower house must still vote to approve the purchase in November.

Mr Ruehe said the project was vital for Germany's defence and offered the best in price and capability. "No other aircraft offers better value for money. The only planes that are cheaper are inferior," he said.

French unions disrupt trains

The Socialist-led French government yesterday faced its first real challenge by the unions since its election four months ago. Rail services throughout France, and metro services in Paris, were seriously disrupted by railway unions demanding shorter hours, higher pay and the creation of new jobs.

Strikes reduced main-line trains by half and Metro trains on some lines to one in three. The action was intended to bring pressure on a conference of the government, unions and employers, starting tomorrow, which will discuss ways of reducing unemployment, currently 12.5 per cent.

The conference will focus especially on the vague campaign promise of the Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, to create new jobs by reducing statutory working hours from 39 to 35, with no loss of pay. Since his election in June, Mr Jospin has been trying to shake off the promise, but it remains a bitterly divisive issue within his government, and between French unions and employers.

Yesterday's strikes, supported by the four main rail unions, sought the 35-hour week (already the norm for railway drivers), an increase in pay and the creation of tens of thousands of new railway jobs.



Long wait: Travellers at Gare du Nord in Paris as strikes hit rail services

Photograph: AFP

The CGT Communist-led union is also seeking retirement for railwaymen at 55.

The transport minister, Jean-Claude Gayssot, himself a Communist and former railwayman, has announced the creation of 1,000 temporary rail jobs for young people. Despite evidence of huge over-manning, especially in the mainline French railways (the SNCF), the unions say the recruits should be only the beginning and should be permanent.

Mr Gayssot invited all the rail unions and em-

ployers to a conference on working hours on 20 October. He risked the wrath of travellers by refusing to condemn yesterday's action. "You can't ask a Communist minister to say he is against a strike," he joked. "Nor that he wanted one, obviously."

Behind the union militancy lies the threat of cuts in rail subsidies, especially to the SNCF, first discussed by the former centre-right government, but not yet rejected formally by the Jospin administration.

—John Lichfield

Voter apathy makes Serbian presidential poll invalid

Election results from the presidential elections in Serbia on Sunday confirmed yesterday that Vojislav Seselj, a far-right nationalist, came out ahead of his pro-government opponent, Zoran Lalic. But the fat lady has not yet sung. A combination of apathy and resentment of the two candidates meant fewer than 50 per cent voted. The election is invalid, and the presidential elections will have to be held again from scratch — possibly with different candidates.

In neighbouring Montenegro, early results had suggested that the reformist prime minister Milo Djukanovic would defeat his opponent, who is supported by the Yugoslav president and master-manipulator, Slobodan Milosevic. But final results showed that Mr Djukanovic came second, by a tiny margin. Neither candidate gained 50 per cent of the vote, so that Montenegro, too, will need a run-off elections between the two front-runners in 10 days' time.

—Steve Crawshaw

the first non-socialist mayor of Belgrade since 1945, is now at war with one of his former allies, Vuk Draskovic.

Mr Draskovic last week engineered Mr Djukanovic's removal as the first non-socialist mayor of Belgrade since the Second World War. Mr Djukanovic claimed this week that now is the time for the democratic opposition to consolidate and organise. He claimed: "Our offensive will follow."

In neighbouring Montenegro, early results had suggested that the reformist prime minister Milo Djukanovic would defeat his opponent, who is supported by the Yugoslav president and master-manipulator, Slobodan Milosevic. But final results showed that Mr Djukanovic came second, by a tiny margin. Neither candidate gained 50 per cent of the vote, so that Montenegro, too, will need a run-off elections between the two front-runners in 10 days' time.

—Steve Crawshaw

Bosnian Croats deny murders

Nine Bosnian Croats and their former leader pleaded innocent to UN charges that they terrorised and murdered Muslims in a vicious campaign of ethnic cleansing.

Dario Kordic, the most senior suspect in custody at the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal, looked relaxed and confident as he entered "not guilty" pleas to

13 separate crimes against humanity and war crimes charges.

Each charge carries a maximum life sentence.

Troops under Kordic's control are blamed for a spree of killing and destruction in the central Bosnian Lasa Valley in 1992 and 1993 aimed at purging the area of Muslims.

War crimes trial told of fears for Papon's life



An artist's impression of Papon in court yesterday.

Defence lawyers claimed yesterday that Maurice Papon, the 87-year-old former Vichy official accused of "crimes against humanity", during the Second World War might die during his trial unless he was released from jail.

The first day of the trial in Bordeaux, which is expected to last over two months, was dominated by argument over whether Mr Papon should go to a prison cell between hearings, as French law demands. The trial was adjourned until today to allow doctors to examine the former Paris police chief and budget minister.

Mr Papon's chief lawyer, Jean-Marc Varaut, warned that he and Mr Papon's fam-

ily would "take all appropriate action" if the accused was ordered to stay in jail and died during the trial.

Mr Papon is accused of complicity in crimes against humanity for his role in the arrest and deportation of 1,558 Jewish men, women and children from the Bordeaux area in 1942-44.

His lawyers say his role was minor and that he helped Jews to escape, where he could. The prosecution, which has assembled 50,000 documents, including arrest and transport warrants bearing Mr Papon's signature, says he pursued Jews, not from anti-Semitism, but to prove his "competence and efficiency" as an administrator.

—John Lichfield

Scotland bids for EU action

Donald Dewar, Secretary of State for Scotland, last night promised to fight for the country to get its "share of the action" during next year's British presidency of the European Union.

Welcoming a government announcement that Edinburgh will host a meeting of EU foreign ministers during the United Kingdom's six months in the chair, Mr Dewar said he hoped other political gatherings among dozens being staged in Britain would take place in Scotland.

On a two-day visit to Brussels, Mr Dewar opened a new Brussels office which will lobby the European Commission

and European Parliament on behalf of the Highlands and Islands. But he emphasised that even after devolution, Britain's voice in the EU would remain that of the central government.

"The British effort is a team effort and we in Scotland are part of that team. The United Kingdom is a partnership and Scotland will remain very much part of that partnership."

Scottish Office ministers would be fielded at EU meetings of particular interest as they were now, he said. "Where there is a strong Scottish interest, Scottish ministers are involved in the relevant meetings."

15% OFF ALL BATH SUITES AND TAPS.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOMEBASE

MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM-8PM • FRIDAY 8AM-9PM • SATURDAY 8AM-8PM • SUNDAY 10AM-4PM

Prices marked include 15% discount. *Does not include taps. Consists of bath, pedestal, basin, cistern and pan. Offer excludes taps sold with Homebase fittings. All prices are approximate and not to scale. Merchandise subject to availability. Products and offers may vary in Northern Ireland and Eire.

Stores in Scotland open Sunday 9am-6pm. Opening times may vary. Please call 0845 801 000 during office hours for details of your nearest store.

NO CLAIM? YOU GAIN.

Discover private health cover with
up to 50% no-claims discount.

Prime Health
A member of the Standard Life Group

Call NOW
0800 77 99 55
quoting reference M087146

كذا من الداخل

Earth has lost two-thirds of its forests

Despite a quarter-century of intensive campaigning, the world's forests are shrinking more quickly than ever. Nicholas Schoon, Environment Correspondent, looks at the latest attempt to sum up the destruction.

Nearly two-thirds of the earth's original forest cover which existed before civilisation took off has now disappeared, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) said yesterday.

Despite Earth Summits, television documentaries and all the public awareness of deforestation, the rates at which woodlands are being logged out, burnt and turned into farmland or scrub has risen in the 1990s.

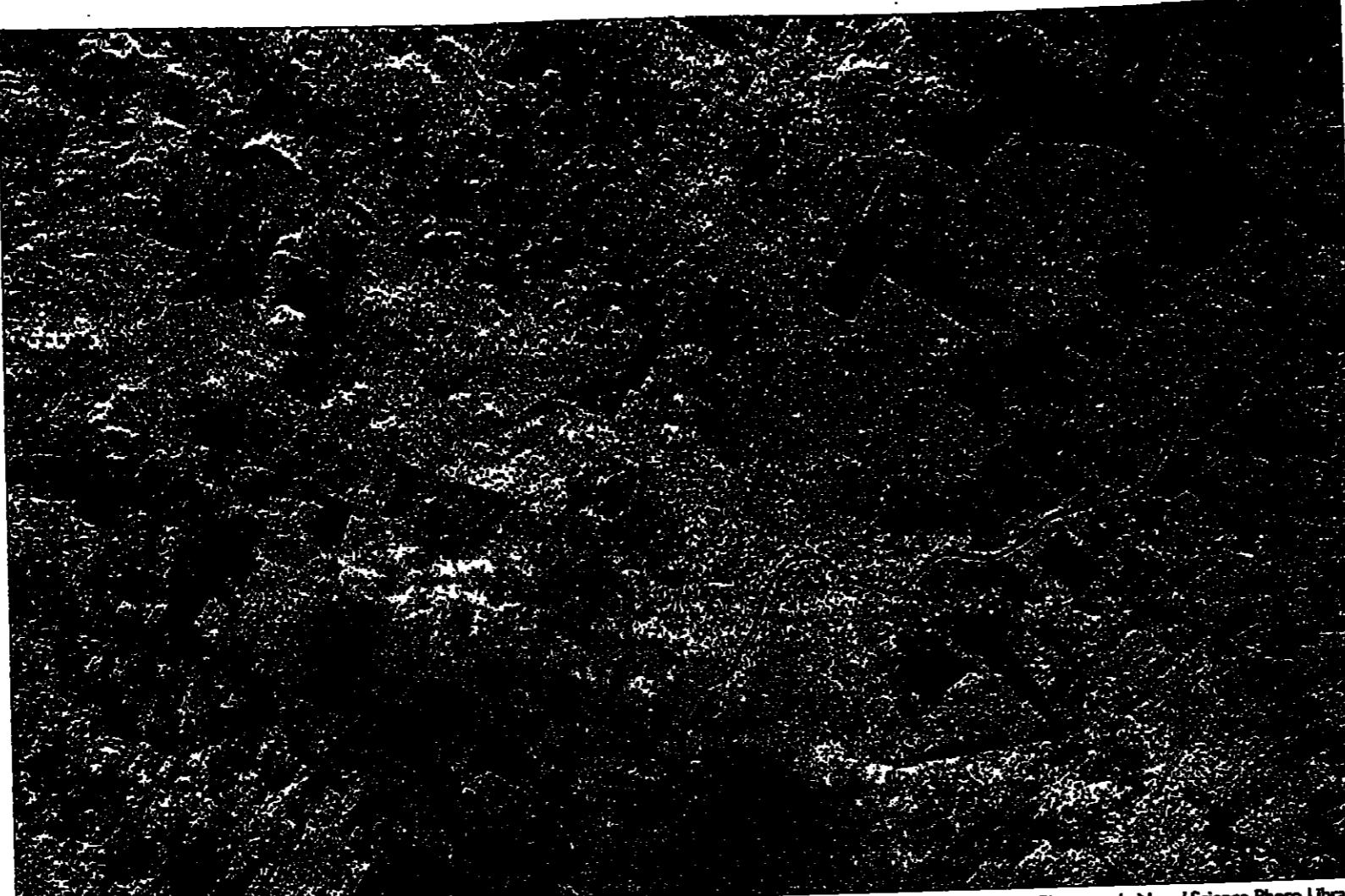
If current trends continue, then within a decade there will be virtually no natural forests left in several countries scattered around the globe. WWF gave Pakistan, Haiti, Madagascar and the Philippines as examples.

Francis Sullivan, the world-wide conservation body's chief forest campaigner, said that would be true of the entire planet half-way through the next century unless there was a turnaround. "In one generation we are facing the almost complete loss of natural forest."

WWF has joined with the respected, Cambridge-based World Conservation Monitoring Centre in drawing up maps of each continent showing their original forest cover and what is left now. They admit it is impossible to be completely accurate when the rate of forest loss is accelerating and many poor countries keep poor records.

But their overall conclusion is that 81 million square kilometres existed 8,000 years ago, at the end of the last Ice Age, covering just over 60 per cent of the earth's land surface if ice-covered Greenland and Antarctica are excluded. Today that has fallen to just over 30 million square kilometres.

While attention has focused on the forest fires in South-east Asia in the past few weeks, the head of WWF's Brazil-



A coloured radar satellite image of rainforest. Pink is forest; areas cleared for agriculture are blue and green

Photograph: Nasa / Science Photo Library

ian organisation told a London press conference that the burning of forests, brush and pasture in the Amazon this year was worse than ever. The burning season lasts from July through to November.

Several airports in the region had been closed. A huge pall of smoke has been hanging over Manaus, a city in the heart of the jungle with more than a million people, and there had been an upsurge in respiratory illnesses, said Garo Batumanian. There had been a 25 per cent

increase in the numbers of fires recorded by satellite.

The latest government estimate for deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon was 15,000 square kilometres a year, an area nearly as large as Wales - but that dates back to 1994. The Brazilian environment agency has suffered financial and technical problems in trying to record the destruction from space, with three recent changes in satellites and incomplete coverage.

Logging for timber is only part of the

problem. The forests are disappearing to provide pasture, plantations and cropland - although sometimes the cleared land is only used for a few years before its fertility collapses and scrub invades. This is what happened in Britain, which was mostly covered in forest, over the past 4,000 years.

Apart from wiping out literally millions of plant and animal species, the forest loss is altering local climates, hastening water run off and even damaging sea fisheries and reefs as silt is

washed rapidly off the land. Forest burning also produces much of the extra carbon dioxide humanity is pouring into the atmosphere, threatening global warming.

The WWF wants ten per cent of each different type of forest, in each country, around the globe to be given permanent protection. Several countries, but not as yet Britain, have pledged to do this. Mr Sullivan said WWF's top priority was to get Indonesia, Russia, the US and Brazil to agree.

Conflicting needs that stifle growth

Forests are still neglected in wealthy, industrialised nations as well as developing countries, according to the Worldwide Fund for Nature. And it picked out as an example yesterday the Glenfeshie estate, at the southern end of Scotland's Cairngorm mountains.

Glenfeshie - a 170 sq km sporting estate - contains a remnant of the great Caledonian pine forest that once covered much of Scotland. But no young trees have been able to grow up for many decades because the big red deer population, kept high for the sake of stalking by wealthy human hunters, eat the seedlings and saplings. The woods that remain are full of elderly trees.

Glenfeshie was designated as a National Nature Reserve more than 30 years ago. But that has not stopped its wildlife value gradually declining because of what conservationists see as mismanagement under a series of private owners.

Three years ago a mysterious charitable trust, Will Woodlands, bought the estate off a Midlands furniture manufacturer for about £5m with the stated aim of improving nature conservation.

The trust, set up by a now deceased widow in memory of her wealthy husband, planned to keep the deer out of the remaining woods using large fences, and continue to maintain high numbers for stalking. But deer fences are known killers of the rare capercailzie and black grouse, birds which fly into them. And, outside the fences, the woods would still have been unable to spread and regenerate.

The trust applied for tree regeneration grants from the Government's Forestry Authority but was turned down. Conservation groups like WWF believe they played a major part in persuading the Forestry Authority to refuse these grants on the grounds that Will Woodlands' plans did not give enough weight to regenerating forests and conserving natural species.

Now the trust has put Glenfeshie back on the market at £5 to £6m. It may yet end up in the hands of owners mainly interested in running it as a sporting estate - in which case the forest and wildlife would be at risk of further decline.

Nicholas Schoon

The Beauty.

And the Beast.

It's all happening at the London Motor Show, Hall 1.

October 10th will be a great day for the motoring industry. Chevrolet will unveil two new stars, each unique and each offering totally new experiences to Sports Car buyers. The UK premiere of the Corvette and the Camaro. The Beauty is Sports Car buyers. The Beast is for racing. A true Sports Tourer with all Camaro - sleek, powerful, roomy andinating. A true Sports Tourer with all the conveniences of a luxury cruiser. For years, the brand has been one of America's favorite pastimes.

<http://www.chevroletuk.com> For more information, also call 03 45 66 11 04.

The Beast is Corvette. The new Corvette, launched in Geneva earlier this year and now offered topless. But with plenty under the hood. Corvette is power in the raw. Fast, furious, magnificient. A Sporting Icon. Carefully monitored production results in limited Corvette availability. Reserve one early. The Beast is for racing. The Beauty is for loving.

CHEVROLET

هذا من ألاضل

British Muslims horrified by Tebbit's dark vision

While Lord Tebbit decried multiculturalism at a fringe meeting in Blackpool, the Queen, on a state visit to Pakistan, praised the contribution made to this country by migrants. Kim Sengupta listened to anger and unease among Britain's Muslim community.

Norman Tebbit has of course raised the question of race, religion and loyalty before. But to some British Muslims his latest incursion was more incendiary than Enoch Powell's notorious "rivers of blood" speech.

For them Lord Tebbit has attempted to tear away the consensus that binds Britain's multi-racial society. He has offered instead a dark vision of a future of division, strife and ethnic cleansing. Within hours of a 15-year-old Asian boy addressing the Conservative conference in Blackpool, the former party chairman was saying "multiculturalism is a divisive force". He added that it could lead to a situation when "this kingdom will become like Yugoslavia".

In Pakistan, the Queen wel-

comed the transformation of the country into a multicultural society. She said in a speech at Islamabad: "A distinctive new identity - that of British Muslim - has emerged. I find that healthy and welcome ... The Pakistani community has been a driving force. Their contribution to all walks of life has won great respect."

Among many Muslims the reaction to Lord Tebbit's speech was one of anger. The writer and broadcaster Yasmin Alibhai-Brown said: "What Tebbit did was disgraceful. It was worse than the rivers of blood speech. He quite deliberately mentioned Yugoslavia knowing that people here had seen the horrors that took place on their television screens so recently. He is basically talking about civil war, because he implies the people in Yugoslavia could not live alongside Muslim population. By his words he is creating an atmosphere of intolerance". Ms Alibhai-Brown is preparing a report for the Institute of Public Policy Research on influence of politicians on public perceptions about race. Her findings are expected to be passed on to the Home Office.

Dr Ghayasuddin Siddiqui, the leader of Britain's Muslim



parliament, also deplored Lord Tebbit's speech and in particular what he called the "demonising" of Muslims. He said: "This man is living in the past,

multiculturalism is a reality. One only has to go to the areas where the immigrants have settled to see the life and the energy there. The Queen is, of

course, absolutely right, immigrants have contributed a huge amount to this country ... There are around 40 seats in Parliament which could be decided by

the ethnic minority vote. Why should these people vote Conservative after this kind of speech?"

Selim Nasrudin Ali was

Racial harmony: A group of young people enjoying a drink and a chat in a London coffee bar

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

London, said: "I have felt the Conservatives are the natural party for business ... so I thought of joining. Now I don't know ... He appears to be saying Muslims must give up their culture. This will alienate a lot of blacks and Asians from the Tories."

But for Meena Chaudhury, a 20-year-old student, the appeal of the Tories for ethnic minorities is "immortal". She said: "They must be bloody stupid to want to join a clapped out old party anyway. Let's face it, what we have is a bitter old man speaking at a fringe thing of a party that does not matter."

Tory peer fails the cricket test

Lord Tebbit, the troublesome Tory peer who upset his party leader by refusing to tone down his views on race relations, was hoist by his own cricket test yesterday.

Responding to repeated claims by the former party chairman that multiculturalism was divisive, William Hague deployed his own version of Tebbit's test, under which people were judged to be fully integrated only if they cheered for England.

"Norman has always had his own cricket tests of various kinds. I have my own cricket test: if you don't want to be part of the team then get off the field. People ought to bear that in mind at future conferences," he said.

Mr Hague said he believed the comments made by Lord Tebbit would be interpreted by many people as racist, and as such they should be avoided.

"I want the Conservative Party to stand for people who

work hard and save hard and are self-reliant and want to be independent. Tory values and also members come from every part of society," he said in a radio interview.

Lord Tebbit left his party's Blackpool conference yesterday after making a speech in which he said that different cultures could not exist comfortably within one society. But before he did so, he underlined his remarks and added a further swipe at his party leader.

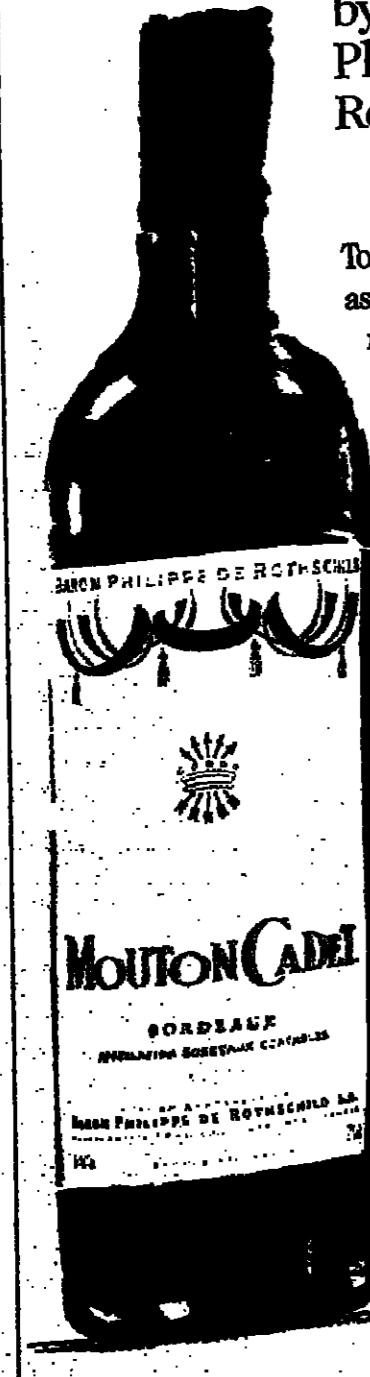
Mr Hague should not have sent a message of support to this year's gay pride march, he said. "If I had been leader of the Conservative Party I would not have done so, because I think it is not particularly compatible with our family values."

He denied that he was opposed to the notion of cultural change and integration, adding: "What I am saying is that we must see if we can find a way in which Muslims can be truly British." — Fran Abrams



L'Art de l'Assemblage

by Baron Philippe de Rothschild



To create wine as good as this you need a tongue like a tuning fork.

To enjoy it, all you need is a corkscrew and a friend.

Diabetic retinopathy

This is what your grandson could look like

if you have diabetic retinopathy, a common

cause of sight loss. Early detection of eye disease

is crucial, but there aren't always warning signs.

You may not know there's a problem until it's too late. That's why the

Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) recommends you have

an eye health test at your optician at least once every two years,

however old you are. It can make all the difference in the long run.

If you know someone with a sight problem, RNIB can help. For more

information or RNIB's free eye health leaflet, please call 0345 669 999.



Royal National Institute for the Blind RNIB

Charity Registration Number 229227



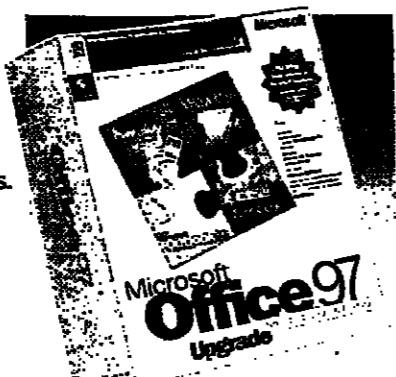
BUSINESS SOFTWARE

OFFICE PACKAGES **SAVE UP TO £200**

MICROSOFT OFFICE 97
Small Business Edition Upgrade.
Specifically designed to meet the needs of small businesses.

FREE
Dun & Bradstreet Market Place UK (worth £99)

£179



MICROSOFT WINDOWS 95 3-IN-1 PACK	Was £89	£79
MICROSOFT HOME ESSENTIALS 97 TSSP	Was £122.99	£99
MICROSOFT WORKS 4	£99	
COREL WORDPERFECT SUITE 8 Upgrade	£129	£249
Full Product		

MICROSOFT OFFICE 97 PROFESSIONAL Upgrade & mouse £299

VOICE RECOGNITION **SAVE UP TO £20**

FINANCE **SAVE UP TO £20**



IBM VIAVOICE	Was £99	NEW £99
ViaVoice is a breakthrough in voice dictation technology which allows you to be productive without pausing your computer without pausing between words. Speak at speeds of up to 140 words per minute.		
IBM VOICE TYPE SIMPLY SPEAKING	Was £44.50	£39.50
IBM VOICE TYPE GOLD	Was £99	£79
DRAGON DICTATE GOLD	£79	

PHOTO IMAGING **SAVE UP TO £20**



UTILITIES **SAVE UP TO £20**

NORTON ANTI-VIRUS 2.1 PLUS UTILITIES 2	Was £118.99	HALF PRICE £59
AntiVirus Utilities		
FIRST AID 97	Was £34.99	£19.99
FIRST AID 97 3.1 PCS	Was £34.99	£24.99
McAfee VIRUS SCAN 3	Electronic update FREE - £15 Dixons Vouchers	£29.99
DOCTOR SOLOMONS HOME GUARD	£29.99	
FIRST AID 97 DELUXE	Was £39.99	£24.99
McAfee VIRUS SCAN 3	Quarterly update. Was £49.99	£39.99

UNBEATABLE SERVICE **EXPERT ADVICE & AFTER SALES SUPPORT**

• 24 HOUR SUPPORT • 7 DAYS A WEEK TO HELP

• YOU MAKE THE BEST CHOICE • PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

• PC & SOFTWARE Returns • BUSINESS COMPUTER • DEDICATED STAFF

Cairo declares war on the press

Egypt has launched an unprecedented campaign against the press in Cairo, taking Arab journalists to court for a story that was never published and banning foreign correspondents from reporting attacks on tourists. All this in a country which claims to be a functioning democracy.

"Meet me in court," Magdi Hussein said. And sure enough, when I turn up at the Egyptian ministry of justice's courthouse in the Cairo suburb of Abbasiya, there is the bespectacled and bearded editor of the Islamist *Al-Shaab* newspaper – published twice weekly with a circulation of 130,000 – standing in the tiled atrium of Court Number 3, wearing his usual friendly scowl of contempt for authority. He is appealing a libel case brought by Alaa al-Alfi, the son of the interior minister, whom his newspaper has accused of refusing to settle a Cairo hotel bill and then bullying the staff when they demanded payment.

Mr Hussein spends a lot of his time accusing the ruling authorities of corruption. So do other journalists in Cairo. Mr Hussein himself awaits trial on six other hearings, including another libel case for hearing in a criminal court brought by minister Hassan al-Alfi himself – whom Mr Hussein accuses of protecting drug traffickers. Four other writers and a cartoonist on *Al-Shaab* are named in the charge. Minister al-Alfi, needless to say, denies everything. And like Egypt itself, Mr Hussein's court cases drag on without resolution.

Kafka – cliché though it may be to say so – would be at home in Court Number 3. The

ceiling fans slowly turn the sweat heat high above us while against the wall, 20 handcuffed prisoners stand inside a medieval iron cage, awaiting trial. Lawyers howl pleas at the three docile-looking civilian judges while guards haw at women relatives of the caged men. Above the din, I can just hear one of the minister's two advocates demanding a verdict within hours. Mr Hussein – uncaged – stands before the bench with the same unyielding smile.

It would be pleasant to believe that this is some kind of aberration, a freak deviation from Egypt's much trumpeted (and American-backed) democracy. Alas, no. Only last month, a Cairo court found six journalists from the Saudi-owned Arab daily *Asharq Al-Awsat* guilty of libelling

BY ROBERT FISK

President Hosni Mubarak's two sons, Alaa and Gamal, by claiming that both used their father's name for furthering business deals. Five of the reporters escaped imprisonment because they were outside the country but the sixth, an Egyptian, received six months in jail.

Oddly, the supposedly libellous article never appeared – the Egyptians started proceedings on the basis of an advertisement in the paper for a story that was to appear in its sister magazine *Al-Jedida*. It was only after *Asharq* pulped 120,000 copies of the offending magazine, fired two journalists and issued a grovelling apology that the unforgiving Egyptians took the journalists to court. *Asharq*, one of the most prestigious of Arab journals, then closed its Cairo office.

Already one major European news organisation has cravenly come to heel and censored all its reports on the attack. International news agencies and television companies are equally fearful that if they breach the censorship law, the Egyptians may close their offices. Thus Cairo bureaux have become hostages to prevent journalists from reporting the story: preservation of the office, it seems, is more important than the truth. "The government also intimidates us," says a foreign news agency journalist. "When this happens, our news dries up. So what are we going to cover?"

The independent Cairo-based Middle East Times suffered official punishment on



Censors' target: Reports of the Cairo tourist bus attack, in which nine died, have been banned. Photograph: Norbert Schiller

22nd August when its editor, Thomas Cromwell, was detained at Cairo airport and deported to Athens without explanation. His next editorial, written abroad, was headlined

"A Letter from Exile" and admitted government censorship of the paper. "It's very difficult to have a free press without real democracy," Magdi Hussein says outside Court Number 3. "The government cancelled democracy when they held elections which were unfair and now they refuse to allow us to investigate corruption in high

places. There is a red line and journalists must not cross that red line." But hasn't he done just that, I ask? The grim returns. "That," he says, "is why I'm here now."

MEDIA'S NADIR

The Arab media is in a sorry state. If it played its most credible role in opposing colonial rule in the Middle East, it is now at its nadir – supporting local dictators, censoring its own reports, accepting bribes from the rich and powerful, acting as a mouthpiece for ruthless regimes.

King Hussein, that most "trustworthy" of pro-Western Arab leaders, has recently closed down 13 weekly newspapers, many of them Islamist. Lebanon's 16 freelance television stations have been cut to four – all owned by prominent members of the Lebanese government. In Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, criticism of the head of state is seen as treachery. In Tripoli, Cairo, Algiers (where more than 50 journalists have been killed by Islamists), Tunis and capitals of the Gulf states, journalists are imprisoned for the mildest criticism. In Lebanon – where the press is still comparatively free – and Jordan and Palestine, writers have been locked up. The Saudi-owned international Arab press – especially *Al-Hayat* and *Asharq Al-Awsat* – have some freedom.

But the Saudi-owned Orbit channel brought about the collapse of BBC's Arabic television service over a programme about the kingdom.

Israel cannot be left out of the equation. Local censorship means that most accounts of the attempted murder by Mossad of a Hamas leader in Amman are preceded by the words "foreign media are reporting..."

Yosef Lapid, an Israeli journalist, this week described the censorship as "an infantile game" – but at least he could say it.

BRITAIN'S No1 CHOICE FOR PRINTERS

EXCLUSIVE COREL BUNDLE
FREE With every HP, Canon & Epson Printer
*CorelDRAW™ 5 (Special Limited Edition) & Corel Print & PhotoHouse™ Software



Byte
The Computer Superstore
YOU CAN BUY BETTER
SEE US ON THE INTERNET <http://www.byte.co.uk>

60 STORES NATIONWIDE. FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE, OR TO ORDER CALL
0990 22 55 99



*How much
would it cost
to replace
your wife?*

Please don't get us wrong. We're not suggesting you trade your partner in. Just that you think about the financial consequences of losing her.

Whilst everyone's situation is different, recent research shows that on average it costs £312.79 a week to pay someone to do all the cooking, cleaning and childcare handled by a parent who stays at home.

That's £16,265* a year you'd have to find if the unthinkable happened.

You could cope with our Family Protection Plan. For the monthly equivalent of just 20p a day, it could provide £568,432 to help secure your family's financial future.

Call us now for a quote for your partner and yourself, or contact your financial adviser.

- THE CASH LUMP SUM IS PAID IF YOU DIE
- THE CASH LUMP SUM IS PAID IF YOU BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR TERMINAL ILLNESS BENEFIT
- YOU DECIDE HOW MUCH COVER YOU WANT
- YOU DECIDE HOW LONG YOU WANT COVER FOR
- MONTHLY PREMIUM ALWAYS STAYS THE SAME

*Source: Legal & General 1996 Value of a Mum Survey

FREE LEGAL & GENERAL KIDS UNINSURED

With your application for a quote, you will receive a free quote for your child's insurance premium paid.

CALL FREE NOW FOR YOUR INSTANT PERSONAL QUOTE:

0500 33 66 66

QUOTING REFERENCE NUMBER B36/DJ01

Lives are open from 18 to 65, Monday to Friday and from 8am Saturday and Sunday. For your protection, calls to this number will usually be recorded and randomly monitored. Further information on Legal & General products is available on our website <http://www.legal-and-general.co.uk>. Now and then, we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please contact us at the address below.

Legal & General Direct Limited is a representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name.

Legal & General Direct Limited, Registered in England No. 4702000 Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TR.

All policies include VAT at 17.5%. All policies contain a clause of policy to print. If over 65, all products are subject to age and health underwriting. Price and specifications subject to change without prior notice. All offers subject to availability.

Post to Legal & General, FREEPOST (SWC 0467), Cardiff, CF1 1YW. Please send me, without obligation, an information pack on The Legal & General Family Protection Plan and my personal quotation.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____ Forename(s) _____ Postcode _____

Address _____ Tel No. work _____

Tel No. home _____ I am a smoker non-smoker

Date of birth _____ Marital Status _____

Occupation _____ Cover required _____ Term required _____ years (Minimum 2 years) Ref B36/DJ01

Legal & General

trust us to deliver

It may be good old fashioned witchcraft, but it works

Researchers are claiming that a stressful job can cause miscarriage; there may be some truth in it. But there is an antidote, says Celia Dodd. It's called tender loving care.

"Go-getters who put their unborn babies at risk." "Overtime in stressful job triples miscarriage risk." So screamed the headlines this summer, announcing the latest research on miscarriage from the University of California which found that lawyers who worked a 45-hour week were three times more likely to have suffered a miscarriage than those who worked less than 35 hours. The key factor, it appeared, was stress.

What are pregnant women – and miscarriage sufferers in particular – to make of this? Should they hand in their notice? Work to rule? Since neither option is realistic or desirable it's reassuring to learn that the findings have been greeted with cautious scepticism by British researchers.

Professor James Walker, who runs the recurrent miscarriage clinic at St James's Hospital in Leeds, says "it's too simplistic to say that women who are worried about miscarriage should cut down the stress in their lives. Obviously if they're extra stressed in their job or private life that may be a factor. But miscarriage can cause a lot of problems at work and within marriages, and it's difficult to know how much is due to the stress of the job and how much is due to the stress of the problem."

One in four women miscarry at least once. One in 100 women suffer three or more miscarriages. It is rarely possible to find a cause, particularly for the most common miscarriages which occur before 14 weeks (one in six pregnancies).

Even with miscarriages between 14 and 24 weeks (only one in 50 pregnancies) a specific cause is not always found.

Yet inevitably women want to find a reason and too often they feel it's their fault – for having had too much wine, tobacco, or sex, for taking too many, or too few vitamins, for exercising too much or too little (the recent upsurge of interest in pre-conception planning has done much to inflame all this guilt). It's tempting to dismiss the California research as yet another way of making women feel they're to blame.

Yet stress – the high anxiety caused by a previous miscarriage rather than the pressure of a high-powered job – is increasingly acknowledged as a possible contributing factor. Professor Walker says: "Women who miscarry and women who start bleeding in early pregnancy have very high anxiety levels. Most of the care we have set up here is related to reducing that stress as much as we can. The higher the level of psychological support you can give a woman before and in the early stages of any pregnancy subsequent to miscarriage, the lower the chances of another miscarriage occurring.

Her job is also to find more answers and more effective treatments. One of the most significant recent breakthroughs at St Mary's has been the use of low-dose aspirin and the anti-clotting drug Heparin to help prevent early miscarriages in women who carry Lupus antibodies, but who do not exhibit any other symptoms of the disease – about 15 per cent of recurrent miscarriages. The antibodies can cause clotting in the blood vessels that supply the placenta and this leads to the baby's death at any time up to 28 weeks. Drug therapy increases the live birth rate in these women from 10 per cent to 70 per cent – a finding which, unlike many others, has stood the test of time.

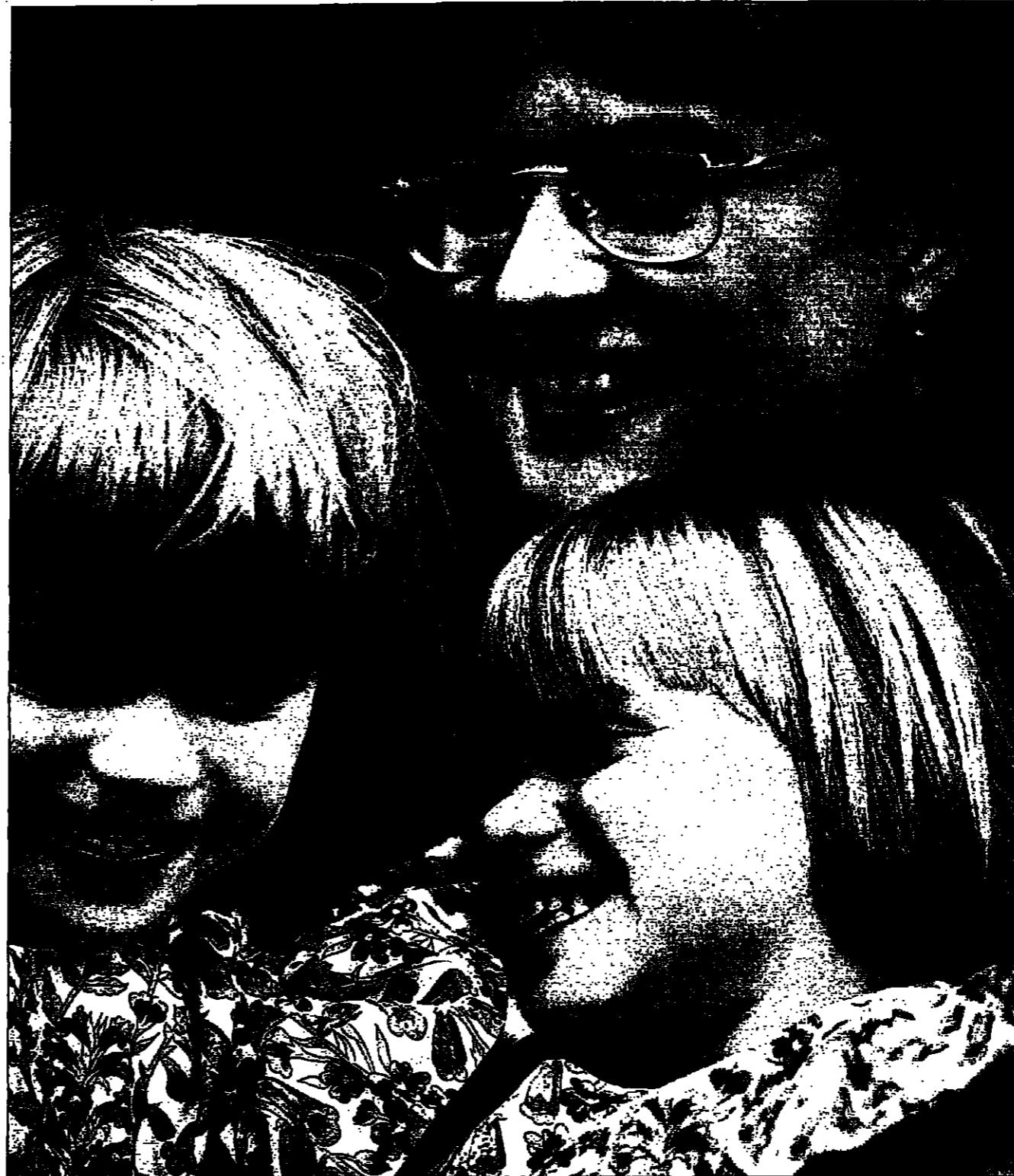
Professor Regan's team is now looking at whether some women have a genetic predisposition to infections in the womb which are linked with miscarriage, and into hormonal abnormalities. It all sounds highly

where it's deemed appropriate, conventional medical treatment is offered. But, Professor Walker says, "It's very difficult to separate the effect of these treatments from psychological support. If you give someone an injection once a week that is a very strong support – they are getting something to help them. There is a huge placebo effect".

Professor Lesley Regan, who runs the largest recurrent miscarriage clinic in the western world, at St Mary's in Paddington, admits that she is also mystified by the fact that patients offered immediate access to medical help seem to do extraordinarily well. "I can't explain it in physiological terms but I do think there is something about helping women to help themselves which is of benefit to them. Most patients want you to find something wrong and it often takes a long time to explain that in fact it's probably better if we don't. But if you're an intelligent, book-reading person and no one can give you an answer it's terribly frustrating. Women become quite depressed because they feel out of control, which they are. Most of my job is putting them back in control."

Her job is also to find more answers and more effective treatments. One of the most significant recent breakthroughs at St Mary's has been the use of low-dose aspirin and the anti-clotting drug Heparin to help prevent early miscarriages in women who carry Lupus antibodies, but who do not exhibit any other symptoms of the disease – about 15 per cent of recurrent miscarriages. The antibodies can cause clotting in the blood vessels that supply the placenta and this leads to the baby's death at any time up to 28 weeks. Drug therapy increases the live birth rate in these women from 10 per cent to 70 per cent – a finding which, unlike many others, has stood the test of time.

Professor Regan's team is now looking at whether some women have a genetic predisposition to infections in the womb which are linked with miscarriage, and into hormonal abnormalities. It all sounds highly



Barbara Hepworth-Jones with her identical twin daughters Ellen and Louisa, age three

Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

optimistic. But the harsh reality for individual women is that there are still only a handful of clinics offering the kind of support pioneered at St James's and St Mary's, although more are now following their example. Most women have to suffer at least three miscarriages before doctors are willing to investigate.

This has particular repercussions for the increasing numbers of women who delay pregnancy until their late 30s and beyond, when the risks of miscarriage become much higher anyway.

Some clinics take a more humane approach to their queuing system than others. But the treatment currently available to women of all ages is still a lottery depending on where they live, their GP's willingness to refer them, and their own determination.

For more information send an e-mail to *The Miscarriage Association, Clayton Hospital, Northgate, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF1 3JS. Tel: (01294) 300799. Professor Lesley Regan's book, 'Miscarriage: What Every Woman Needs to Know' is published by Bloomsbury, £7.99.*

Barbara Hepworth-Jones, 35, a clinical research education adviser, had three miscarriages after she first got pregnant at age 29. After attending the Royal London's recurrent miscarriage clinic she gave birth to identical twins, Ellen and Louisa.

"At the time of the miscarriages my partner was quite stressed and involved a lot of travelling. I was convinced that stress had contributed to the miscarriages, partly because the GP advised bed rest. I felt very guilty but I couldn't change my lifestyle – I wanted to carry on working after having a baby."

I spent hours looking up things in medical journals, desperately trying to find a cause or treatments that would make it all right next time. I think I was also looking for reassurance that it wasn't my fault. I got depressed, I couldn't stand to be with friends who were pregnant. The only thing that helped was talking to other women who'd had miscarriages too."

My husband was obviously upset but he seemed to feel fairly confident that next time things would go OK. The main problem was dealing with me. I thought we'd never have a baby. I didn't tell anyone at work about the miscarriages. My employer didn't tell people getting pregnant and I knew wouldn't get any long-term maternity leave looked likely.

After the third miscarriage, I went for various tests at the Royal London, most of which were negative. They said it was possible that my immune system was rejecting the baby, so I was immunised with my husband's white blood cells. Studies done since show the difference this makes is marginal but at the time I felt it might help.

When my pregnancy test was positive I attended their early pregnancy support clinic. I could phone up if I was worried and got a lot of TLC. They held a special scanning afternoon for recurrent miscarriers, when they were not happy, very pregnant women in the waiting room. I would see the heartbeat on the scan and feel confident for a few days then, when the scan was off, it was only another three days until the next scan. That care and reassurance really got me through.

I was certain it would go wrong, I didn't acknowledge that I was going to have babies until six weeks before the due date, when I bought two Baby grows. Within two days I gave birth to identical twin girls – premature but healthy. I've done a lot of reading and I'm fairly sure that my miscarriages were just bad luck, caused by chromosomal abnormalities. But at the time you can't appreciate that."

My sister says Dad abused her as a child. Should I believe her?

VIRGINIA IRONSIDE



DILEMMAS
Judith thought she had a happy childhood, but her sister has suddenly revealed that their father abused her every night, creeping into her bedroom. Her father is very upset – as is her mother – and denies it completely. Judith's sister now refuses to see her parents. How can Judith be loyal to everyone?

One only has to look at the daughters of Enid Blyton or Antonia White, whose views of their mothers varied hugely between mum-in-a-million and monster, to realise that we each have a different experience of our parents, even sisters close in age. For one, their father is a dominating bully with a cat-o'-nine-tails always close to hand; for the sibling he's a strong but kindly character who is all bark and no bite.

I am always astonished when talking about my father to my half-sisters: sometimes we are discussing exactly the same person, and then we suddenly diverge, as if we were each talking about a completely different person. There is "Christopher", as he was to me, and "Daddy", as he was to them. For example, I'll say, "Christopher was so insecure, and they'll say: "Insecure? Daddy?", completely flummoxed by such an idea.

Parents similarly treat children differently. They may make huge gender preferences – the boys get all the second helpings and the white meat, and the girls have to clear the table. With children of the same sex, some are favoured, some are scapegoated. It's a rare but known syndrome that a child in a family can be so hated that he or she is made to eat in a different room, wear second-hand clothes, and generally be turned into a Cinderella-type slave by a mother who, to her other children, is perfectly normal, warm and affectionate. Up to a point there are always slight favourites in families, and though they've never talked about it, everyone knows who's the chosen one.

This would account for the difference in behaviour of Judith's father towards the two girls. But are her sister's accusations true? Is she correct in remembering what happened? Might it have been no more than a case of her father coming in at night to check she was properly tucked up, and give her a kiss before he went to bed himself? Might this have got translated into abuse by some convinced therapist, or indeed even by the sister herself, who may be displacing her own early feelings of sexual desire for her father on to the man himself so as not to take responsibility for them? Or maybe yes, her father did find her attractive, but never laid a finger on her. We respond intuitively to feelings, even if they are never acted out. If this was the case,

It certainly feels odd to me that Judith, even when she was told by her sister, had no "Aha! So that explains everything" bells going off in her head, not feeling that suddenly all the pieces had come together and that that would account for the funny looks her father had given her, or the vague feelings of tension around. No; she had a perfectly happy childhood without a glimmer of sexual abuse. Her sister now refuses to see either her father or mother, which is odd, because her mother never did her any harm, unless she felt that by her inaction she was condoning what was going on, and there's no evidence of this.

Will the sister cut Judith out of her life, too, unless she backs her up in her recently discovered memories?

My advice to Judith is to keep well out of it all, and hang on to the memories of the happy childhood she clearly had. Her parents have never done her any harm, and second-hand hatred or revenge is always unkind. If, as a result, her sister wishes to cut her out of her life as well, this, as they say, is the sister's problem.

WHAT READERS SAY

Whether true or not, your sister needs help

Child abuse has a huge profile at present. I was abused myself, so I dare to say that the current hype about it has worked up a frenzy which can do more harm than good to many victims. And it has certainly alerted persons seeking infections in the womb which are linked with miscarriage, and into hormonal abnormalities. It all sounds highly

clinically depressed in my mid-twenties, and accused my father. Later, through therapy, I admitted to myself that I was angry with him for a host of unexpected reasons, but he had never sexually abused me. It was a terrible time for the whole family. My brother sided with me and effectively lost Mum and Dad for two years. So keep an open mind and heart; your parents and sister are still the people you have loved all your life. Keep saying to them that you don't know whether it happened or not, but that you hope whoever is telling the truth will stick to their guns – so that if this rift stems from something other than sexual abuse, your sister may find it easier eventually to admit the truth.

Kate Bishop, London SW10

Trust your own gut feeling about what happened

Children are very sensitive to the emotional atmosphere at home. If you are genuinely astounded to hear this allegation, then it is possible that it is not true.

I say this because in my family it was I who uncovered "memories" of sexual abuse, when I was

clinically depressed in my mid-twenties, and accused my father. Later, through therapy, I admitted to myself that I was angry with him for a host of unexpected reasons, but he had never sexually abused me. It was a terrible time for the whole family. My brother sided with me and effectively lost Mum and Dad for two years. So keep an open mind and heart; your parents and sister are still the people you have loved all your life. Keep saying to them that you don't know whether it happened or not, but that you hope whoever is telling the truth will stick to their guns – so that if this rift stems from something other than sexual abuse, your sister may find it easier eventually to admit the truth.

Kate Bishop, London SW10

Give your father the chance to say sorry

Unfortunately your sister probably has been abused by your father – what would she stand to gain from making this allegation if it were not true? She must be every bit as upset as your parents.

Isabel Brooks, Totnes, Devon

I but she has been building up to this for years. She will have considered the possible outcome of keeping the events of the past to herself – bearing the secret burden with increasing anger, fearing that any children you and she may have would have the same treatment from their grandfather.

Now she is giving him the opportunity to be the good father

she has always longed for, by apologising for the abuse. You could support everyone by encouraging them to talk about what happened. Your sister should state what she felt at the time about your father's behaviour – unbelievable as it seems, he may have thought she liked what he did; after all, he liked it, and she was his girl.

Your father may take the olive branch on offer at a family discussion and admit something he will have tried to forget – that what he did was wrong, and he knew it at the time and is sorry now. If he can summon up the courage to admit this, it could be the making of him.

Name and address withheld

Keep on good terms with all the family
I am a counsellor who has had clients with memories of childhood sexual abuse. I would say to Judith: If your sister convinces you that she has always remembered the abuse, but has not spoken of it before, then the memory is likely to be true.

If she has only recently remembered it, whether spontaneously or while in counselling or therapy, then there is no way for either you or your sister to know whether it is true. Sometimes such recovered memories are true; sometimes they are based on real events, but distorted; sometimes they are a symbolic indication of some other kind of distress.

Can you keep on good terms with both your parents and your sister, while making it clear that you simply can't know who to believe? It is a difficult thing to do, but if you succeed you could be the means by which some sort of reconciliation (yes, they do happen) can be negotiated.

Name and address withheld

Send your comments to me at the Features Department, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (fax 0171-293 2182) by Tuesday morning. And if you have a dilemma of your own that you would like to share, please let me know.

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

My grandchildren are coming to stay for a few days while my daughter-in-law is away.

She has given me a list of rules, such as no sweets, no television except half an hour on Friday, bath twice a day, only half-an-hour on the computer every day,

and a bit of a left-over punishment from a few days ago which means that my grandson, aged eight, has to go to bed at 7.30pm for the rest of the week and be shut alone in his room with a book.

I want their time with me to

be happy – do you think I can insist that these rules be relaxed? Sandra.

Letters are welcome, and every contributor who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from *Interflora*.

THE INDEPENDENT
THURSDAY
9 OCTOBER 1997
18/FEATURES
It may be good old fashioned witchcraft, but it works
Researchers are claiming that a stressful job can cause miscarriage; there may be some truth in it. But there is an antidote, says Celia Dodd. It's called tender loving care.
"Go-getters who put their unborn babies at risk." "Overtime in stressful job triples miscarriage risk." So screamed the headlines this summer, announcing the latest research on miscarriage from the University of California which found that lawyers who worked a 45-hour week were three times more likely to have suffered a miscarriage than those who worked less than 35 hours. The key factor, it appeared, was stress.
What are pregnant women – and miscarriage sufferers in particular – to make of this? Should they hand in their notice? Work to rule? Since neither option is realistic or desirable it's reassuring to learn that the findings have been greeted with cautious scepticism by British researchers.
Professor James Walker, who runs the recurrent miscarriage clinic at St James's Hospital in Leeds, says "it's too simplistic to say that women who are worried about miscarriage should cut down the stress in their lives. Obviously if they're extra stressed in their job or private life that may be a factor. But miscarriage can cause a lot of problems at work and within marriages, and it's difficult to know how much is due to the stress of the job and how much is due to the stress of the problem."
One in four women miscarry at least once. One in 100 women suffer three or more miscarriages. It is rarely possible to find a cause, particularly for the most common miscarriages which occur before 14 weeks (one in six pregnancies).
Even with miscarriages between 14 and 24 weeks (only one in 50 pregnancies) a specific cause is not always found.
Yet inevitably women want to find a reason and too often they feel it's their fault – for having had too much wine, tobacco, or sex, for taking too many, or too few vitamins, for exercising too much or too little (the recent upsurge of interest in pre-conception planning has done much to inflame all this guilt). It's tempting to dismiss the California research as yet another way of making women feel they're to blame.
Yet stress – the high anxiety caused by a previous miscarriage rather than the pressure of a high-powered job – is increasingly acknowledged as a possible contributing factor. Professor Walker says: "Women who miscarry and women who start bleeding in early pregnancy have very high anxiety levels. Most of the care we have set up here is related to reducing that stress as much as we can. The higher the level of psychological support you can give a woman before and in the early stages of any pregnancy subsequent to miscarriage, the lower the chances of another miscarriage occurring.
Her job is also to find more answers and more effective treatments. One of the most significant recent breakthroughs at St Mary's has been the use of low-dose aspirin and the anti-clotting drug Heparin to help prevent early miscarriages in women who carry Lupus antibodies, but who do not exhibit any other symptoms of the disease – about 15 per cent of recurrent miscarriages. The antibodies can cause clotting in the blood vessels that supply the placenta and this leads to the baby's death at any time up to 28 weeks. Drug therapy increases the live birth rate in these women from 10 per cent to 70 per cent – a finding which, unlike many others, has stood the test of time.
Professor Regan's team is now looking at whether some women have a genetic predisposition to infections in the womb which are linked with miscarriage, and into hormonal abnormalities. It all sounds highly

The Queen makes a stand against the times



EDITOR: ANDREW MARR.
DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES.
ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE,
CANARY WHARF,
LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000
OR 0171 345 2000
FAX: 0171 293 2435
OR 0171 345 2435

Post letters to Letters to the Editor
and include a daytime telephone number.
Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.
Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Tebbit's Britain

Sir: In the light of Lord Tebbit's remarks, let us give William Hague some credit ("Anger as Tebbit questions loyalties of 'two-nation' immigrants", 8 October). Not only did he have the courage to send a message to the Gay Pride march, but he has consistently supported cultural diversity in this country.

Unlike Lord Tebbit, Hague appreciates that a modern economy will entail the mobility of labour which will inevitably lead to ethnic diversity within nations. Britain was never a monochromic culture, but modernity has now made such a dream impossible.

IAN MARKHAM
Liverpool Professor of
Theology and Public Life
Liverpool Hope University
College

Sir: Let it pass that Norman Tebbit has no more claim to be an aboriginal of this island than anyone else. Let it pass that many of the heroes of the narrow history he was taught at school were themselves immigrants or foreigners. His speech might have been marginally less repulsive if he had the balls to address immigrants and the descendants of relatively recent immigrants directly. Instead he was talking to an extraordinary alliance of skinheads, hoary Henries and little old ladies in elaborate blue hats.

History is not only what he was taught in school, it is also what happened last year, last week, this evening – and it can go in any direction, including towards the Balkanisation he fears. He mistakes the causes, however. Like Karadzic in Serbia or Paisley in Northern Ireland, he may find himself the catalyst of the very hatred and violence he pretends to be saving us from.

JON GRAY

Bath

Sir: Lord Tebbit's remarks reflect Britain's need to confront the consequences of its own meddlesome creation of false "multicultural" countries in the name of empire.

A country like Nigeria, forcibly amalgamated in 1914 into a "multicultural" colony served the purposes of the imperial state. The different nations were bludgeoned into submission.

We did not ask to be lumped

So the Queen is not at ease with the idea of a nation "with its finger on the fast-forward button", in her Prime Minister's ghastly phrase. "I sometimes sense that the world is changing almost too fast for its inhabitants, at least for us older ones," she told the Pakistani parliament. This was meant as an aside, the closest one gets to a Royal Joke, and a self-deprecating one too. But it offered an elegiac insight into the conservative character of our monarch.

Hers is a popular sentiment – that the pace of technological change is growing ever faster. That there is no hope for us – wrinkles when three-year-old Angelica can already programme the video and surf the Net.

But it was ever thus. Seventy-one-year-olds doubtless shook their heads when the pharaoh's engineer explained how to move five-ton blocks of stone up a pyramid. What's wrong with a simple cremation? they probably asked. They tut-tutted when the first motor cars spluttered onto

the roads. Dangerous, noisy, impossible to drive. They regarded the telephone as a jangling invasion of privacy, and preferred speaking to an operator instead of using anything quite as complicated as a dial. Indeed, the Queen's grandmother Queen Mary, who died in 1953, refused to use one at all. Technophobia seems to run in the family. This was also the week when the Princess Royal issued a sombre warning against confusing computers with education. Part of the fun in the news that the royal family had set up its own website on the Internet was its incongruity, set against the image of an old woman who still wears headscarves and for whom a keyboard probably means a piano.

But it is a mistake to think that, simply because someone is old enough for a free bus pass, they cannot operate a microwave or must feel disoriented by scientific progress. Some old people are enthused by change, while some young people cannot cope or stick wilfully to a

mannered fogeyism. This is not a matter of years, but of an attitude of mind.

What the Queen was really saying yesterday is that she does not belong to the flexible side of the human race. She did not suddenly start to disapprove of change when she became a grandmother; unsurprisingly, she was ever thus.

But the important point is that she is on the wrong side of the divide. It is part of the urban mythology of modern life that technology advances by geometric progression, with ever shorter times between scientific breakthroughs, with ever greater power to change our lives. It is central to visions of ecological catastrophe, a kind of modern-day green millennialism, that technology is spinning out of control.

Again, it was ever thus. There is a tendency in human nature to see scientific advance as a threat to civilisation as we know it. But there is a stronger tendency to find things out, try things out, and push at the limits of what can be done. We have no

choice, of course, but it is right that the questing spirit should prevail.

At the simplest level, "you can't teach an old dog new tricks" is a misunderstanding. Much of the new technology is designed specifically to enable people to cope with change. If people cannot use mobile phones and computers, they will not sell. Nowadays, electronic gadgets come with thick instruction booklets which most people throw away because they are so easy to use.

But there is a more profound point. There is no doubt that the pace of change in our understanding of the physics of the universe, the technology of information and the science of life is accelerating. This should be liberating and exhilarating. But, as scientists break boundaries in their explorations of higher maths, mind-bending physics and genetics, they have streaked away into areas where most people cannot follow.

Perhaps there always was a knowledge

elite, from the scribes of Ancient Egypt to the professors of genetic manipulation, capable of terrifying the rest of us with the fear of that which we can only dimly grasp. But now scientific breakthroughs are translated into the way we do business at astonishing speed, and there are new dangers in the disconnection between the knowledge elite and society generally.

This has been demonstrated by the public alarm over the cloning of sheep and the possible cloning of people. This newspaper has argued that these fears are misplaced, but scientists do need to develop their understanding of the ethical and social contexts in which they work.

The route to democratic understanding, however, lies mainly in a wider realisation that trying to find the answer to the next problem, or how to make use of the answer to the last one, is the only way to control technology. It is not a message we would expect the Queen to like, but standing still is never the right thing to do.

LETTERS



by imperial fiat in an association of strange bedfellows. Britain's multiculturalism was self-created. It was the result of a nation's craving for the urchin of overseas dependencies, with which come excess baggage.

For Lord Tebbit toicker

about it without placing the issues in context is further to alienate ethnic communities from the Tory party and raise the spectre of forcible repatriation.

Yet as all sensible people know, a new Britain cannot be born from its imperial past. It will be born out of the creativity of all its inhabitants and its birth is being overseen

by Tony Blair.

MICHAEL O BANJO

London SE16

Memories of abuse

Sir: Dr Kevin Ilsey (letter, 3 October) is attacking the wrong windmill. While I can accept no responsibility for Freud I can as-

sure him that the Royal College of Psychiatrists places great importance on the early recognition and treatment of sexual abuse in childhood. I agree with what he says about the suffering of adults who were abused as children.

The much less common problem which we are trying to deal with is the phenomenon of "false memories" which may be created in adult life and are followed by devastating consequences within the family. The suffering in these families is well documented and the accuser often gains little relief from the "revelation" and the isolation from those they had loved and depended upon which follows.

We are not questioning the reality of childhood abuse, but we are saying that it is the responsibility of therapists to ensure that the task of treating abused children should not blind them to the suffering which can occur when inap-

propriate therapy of adults generates false memories of past abuse.

SYDNEY BRANDON
Chairman, Royal College of
Psychiatrists Working Group
on Recovered Memories
Leicester

Threat to midwives

Sir: I was astonished to read that the One-to-One midwifery scheme is under threat of closure (letter, 2 October).

As a mother of two and with another on the way, I feel most strongly that it is extremely important for those making the decisions to be fully aware of the physical, psychological and, perhaps more importantly to them, financial benefits of this scheme.

I had my first child at Queen Charlotte's and had shared care between hospital and GP. This involved meeting with a different midwife on each hospital visit. I wasted a good deal

of everyone's valuable time, because of the lack of midwife continuity. The last straw was when the midwife who had looked after me through labour had to leave shortly before I gave birth because her shift had ended.

With my second child I was advised by my doctor to opt for the One-to-One scheme. For a working mother it was ideal. It gave me the confidence to sail through my pregnancy with no other medical attention apart from that received from the midwife. I spent a maximum of one hour in the hospital during the nine months of my pregnancy. I went to hospital for the last stage of labour and the birth. I arrived at 10pm and was back home by 1am.

The time element in itself demonstrates how much money must be saved through fewer hospital and GP visits. It would be more sensible to expand the One-to-One service

rather than axe it, so that more women can enjoy this excellent service.

NICKI GUNNING
London W3

Learn to love euro

Sir: You report a pre-election survey indicating that 61 per cent of British voters wish to retain the pound ("Voters still hostile to the euro", 7 October).

Under what circumstances will people continue to hold this view? If the euro proves a success? If sterling returns to its historical position as soft currency, vulnerable to speculators and declining against the world's major currencies?

If inflation and interest rates in the UK surge higher than in those countries that are part of what is in our long-term interests.

SIMON SWEENEY
Senior Lecturer in European
Integration Studies
University College of Ripon
and York St John, York

decision-making? If British industry finds itself at a competitive disadvantage?

It is not surprising that there is opposition to economic and monetary union and even to the European Union as a whole. Successive Conservative governments and mass-circulation newspapers, several of them foreign-owned, have consistently rubbished the European integration process in favour of an atavistic appeal to nostalgia, English nationalism and xenophobia.

The debate on the merits of a single currency has hardly begun. The Blair government must pitch into this debate with honesty and courage. Only then is there any likelihood of a change in the public perception of what is in our long-term interests.

PHILIP JAGGARD
Oxford

Never mind about hitting below the belt – let's see what your navel is made of



MILES
KINGTON

In all my life I have only ever heard two funny things about the navel.

Other parts of the body are supposed to be funny, or capable of being funny, but there is nothing particularly comic or even very interesting about the navel. For one thing, it is about the most useless part of the body there is. You couldn't be born without it, and you can't do anything else with it. The day you are born and your umbilical cord is snipped, its usefulness is over, and for the rest of your life you carry it around as if it were an old sell-by-date label you had forgotten to remove.

After that, the navel acquires characteristics which the great designer of the world

never intended it to have. It marks the belt line, so it becomes a symbol of fairness and unfairness, as when something is below the belt. It has acquired a nickname, the belly button, which imparts a kind of hopelessness to the case. And what question do they ask themselves as they contemplate this strange cavity, which I once heard described as the perfect place to put salt if you eat celery in the bath?

The question they may well be asking themselves is: what two funny things can possibly have heard about navels in the last 40 years? I am glad you asked that question.

The first I heard about 30 years ago, when Mort Sahl was a great name as the first of the

improvising comedians, and what he said was this:

"I was listening to a folk singer the other night – you know what a folk singer is, don't you? A folk singer is an artist who performs passionately with his shirt open, right to the navel. Only they have no navel. This is the ultimate rejection of the mother..."

That has stuck in my mind for 30 years, not because it is funny (which isn't) or because it is significant (it doesn't mean anything at all), but because it is a great example of something that sounds as if it should be funny – it has all the shape of being funny without actually being funny. I am very fond of it for that reason. But I now realise that I should have treasured

it for another reason: it was probably the only use made of the navel in modern humour.

Until now.

Or until the other day, when Talabani, one of the few ruling parties in the world beside Labour to have dispensed with the definite article, made a pronouncement from its government offices in Kabul. Talabani, as you know, is an Islamic fundamentalist movement. They therefore think that being Islamic entitles them to pronounce on all matters in human life. (The late Ayatollah Khomeini had the same idea, until the fatwa pronounced on him by Salman Rushdie led to his untimely end.) And in this case they had come to a decision about morality in sportswear,

which is something that not even Tony Banks has done yet.

If any person in Afghanistan should indulge in sport, they said, they should not go beyond the bounds laid down by Islamic propriety. In other words, anyone who wore shorts for their sport should make sure that the shorts went below their knees. And anyone who went bare-chested for a sport should make sure their navel was hidden.

So welcome back to 20th-century humour, the navel!

A reader writes: *Dear Mr Kington, it is not so long ago that we too in this country had shorts below the knees. Have you seen pictures of pre-war Arsenal? Their shorts are nearly down to their ankles! You may well laugh, but we didn't have pitch violence,*

referee bribing and players throwing matches then. Maybe there was some connection between that and the long shorts. You hadn't thought of that, had you? And before the war you didn't get athletic kit so streamlined that you could see every sexual organ in 3D, including the navel, for all I know: did you? What have you got to say to that, eh?

Miles Kington: *What have I got to say to that? I'll tell you what I've got to say – come outside and say that again, that's what I say! Put your dukes up and let me not see your navel!*

In tomorrow's episode, a Talabani agent fights three hotly contested rounds with Mr Kington behind the pub until both are arrested for boxing in trousers the wrong length.

Dead? No, the Tory tiger is still a dangerous beast



POLLY
TOYNBEE
THE NATION'S
MEAN STREAK

for Asda, and was the only Tory student at Huddersfield University. "We should never join EMU, on principle, never mind the pros and cons. We're the party of the nation state. The party must inspire British people and give them something to fight for. Law and order is our issue. Jack Straw is soft - giving prisoners back their TVs in their cells. I'd bring back corporal punishment, but of course EU law won't let us. I'd keep them locked in their cells 24 hours a day. What's this rubbish about overcrowding? I'd have them three or four to a cell, and hard labour too. As for tuition fees, well, if you go to prison you get tuition free. All this is in our guts, everyone of us. We're Tories. We don't need focus groups to tell us what the people think. We are the people. Labour aren't."

There was plenty more where all that came from. Populist, nationalist, "common-sense", reactionary, *True Blue* views. There were some radicals, too, who want to slash welfare to ribbons, dismantle state provision of health, pensions and education, regroup and radicalise in the wilderness as Thatcher did in preparation for her 1979 victory. But mainly the Tory rank and file just rely on the good, old-fashioned, nasty, blinkered, mean-minded, selfish Tory values that have stood them in such good stead for most of this century.

Up gets young Hague. Now is the time, he says, to get up off our knees. Now is the time to stop apologising. Sorry? Did I miss something? Who apologised? John Major did, just, pausing for the "no, no's from the floor, who knew he really blamed those he'd dubbed "bastards", sitting behind him. No one I talked to has changed their own personal position - not one jot or tittle; they are locked in warfare still. No one says "I was wrong; my views were wrong." For this is still a party rent by schism from top to bottom. The mad fever burns as fiercely in their veins; the lesson is not yet learned; they are gripped by passionate hatred of one another. The crisis is not yet passed, and we do not know if they will die of it or live to fight another day.

I spent most of my time amongst the delegates, taking their pulse, checking their eyeballs, tapping their reflexes. Taking tea in the Palm Court of the Winter Gardens, they were mainly the old, interspersed with a few fiercely ambitious, pinstriped young men on the make.

One and all protested that Labour had stolen their clothes and now strutted posturously in their pudloined finery. "But," said one, "they're only pretending. They don't mean it. No, not even Jack Straw. It's not in their guts. They are not us - we know it, they know it, and the people of Britain will find out soon enough".

The more I talked to them, the more I saw their point. Take Mrs Nora Smith, OBE, hon vice-president of the Westmoreland and Lonsdale party, now at her 27th conference. "We are the party of the family and law and order. Respect and back to basics: religion and uniforms in schools, with good, old-fashioned discipline in the home. I spoke to a teacher the other day and I thought he was a workman, the way he dressed. The rot started under Labour in the permissive Sixties, and we've got to get a grip. Only we Conservatives really understand these things. My grandchildren understand respect - they don't say boo to a goose. They're seen and not heard, I'm glad to say." She can't understand the loss of nerve in her party. "On Europe, Cash and Gorman had a point, but they did help lose the election. I really don't know what's got into everyone. Of course we'll be back, because we stand for clear Conservative values." She's right. Labour is not wearing her clothes. She does not sound even remotely like anyone in the Labour party.

Nor does 25-year-old Philip Davies of Colne Valley, who wants to be a candidate next time. He's a customer relations adviser



Multiculturalism is at the heart of American vitality: Million Man March in Washington, October 1995

Photograph: Steve Helber/AP

Even Canute would not try to hold back the tide of multiculturalism



RUPERT
CORNWELL
TEBBIT FAILS
THE TEST

In his rich and vivid political career Norman Tebbit has been likened to many things. Sage of the Saloon Bar, Bovver Boy of the Thatcher era and, of course, - to borrow Michael Foot's immortal coinage - the "semi-house-trained polecat" of Commons fame. But in the wake of his diatribe against multiculturalism, the comparison that springs to mind is with King Canute. Lord Tebbit may not like it, nor may an unknown but doubtless substantial portion of the British people. But there is nothing to be done.

Almost certainly not. Or not yet. Most people still voraciously read the same beastly newspapers, packed full of the same beastly xenophobic views and prejudices. The *Mail*, *Sun* and *Telegraph* have not turned kind and generous overnight. Nor, presumably, have their readers. The beleaguered, ageing rump of a party meeting here in Blackpool may look a sorry sight now, but that doesn't mean they haven't still got their finger on the pulse of the nation's old mean streak. They are not history, or not quite yet.

Labour in power still has to prove that the country can be well run, fiscally prudent, good at social problem-solving, both adventurous and wise, both reforming and practical - and compassionate, too. It has to show that a government can be tough on inflation and crime, yet tolerant and open minded on how people choose to live their lives.

If not, then the Tory tiger will still have teeth. I came to gloat, but I came away chastened, remembering how deep and strong Tory values still are, even when the Tory party is weak. The battle to change Britain has only just begun.

loudly by his liege-lady, Margaret Thatcher, but whose fault lines mostly spring from the uniquely multicultural character of its society. Unlike Britain's voluntary immigrants from the Caribbean, America's black community has every right to disown all things American: "We didn't land on Plymouth Rock, Plymouth Rock landed on us," said Malcolm X, a forefather of Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam, which a couple of years ago set white America's nerves on edge with the Million Man March in Washington DC. In America, too, so great is the Hispanic influx that many demand special laws to defend the status of English as official language. Only in America, too, is the most slavish, real or imagined, capable of having an entire ethnic group up in arms - or rather white and their other counterparts in the law courts.

And yet America flourishes, not so much in spite of as because of multiculturalism. In America, to the country's great advantage, multiculturalism ensures very few people know their place. Multiculturalism is at the heart of America's tensions, but also of its vitality.

America has its Tebbits - the Pat Buchanans and the redneck militiamen who rail against gays and foreigners of every hue, and believe the United Nations and the World Trade Organisation are plotting to turn the country into a vassal state. The notion is as absurd as Tebbit's suggestion that Britain could become another Yugoslavia.

Indeed, in matters multi-

cultural Britain in some respects is doing better than America. Race relations are palpably more relaxed here. Maybe it is another case of British muddling through, reflecting both the fact that we do

not have an education system that force-feeds our "national heritage" as vigorously as Tebbit would like, and our ability to laugh at ourselves.

Or take France. Confident of the power of its *rayonnement culturel*, it long considered itself multicultural. Today, however, for its population of North African origin, "Frenchness" is increasingly less beacon than straitjacket. France is caught in a vice, between a minority that cannot be fully assimilated, and nationalist politicians, led by Jean-Marie le Pen, who are more numerous and more extreme in their views than Tebbit and their other counterparts in the law courts.

But there is a deeper truth. In countries around the world, the divided loyalties so lamented by Tebbit abound, deriving from race, skin, faith or language. As America shows, they need not be a recipe for disaster. Rather, as attested by the tragedy of 20th century German Jews - in all but one fatal respect more German than the Germans - the worst trouble comes when the state deems these loyalties mutually incompatible.

Tebbit may have a point when he argues that beyond small groups such as club, family or gang, humans cannot relate directly to each other without overriding standards or beliefs in common. Without such glues of language, national heritage and so on, a country ceases to be a nation or a society, just "a population living under the same jurisdiction".

To which one may answer first: and what is wrong with this minimalist definition of statehood? Lack of a common faith or language does not mean all roads lead to Bosnia. True, there are multicultural mis-

fortless over the borders so cherished by Tebbit.

For proof, there is sport, which has largely replaced the old-fashioned instruments of monarchy, war and diplomacy as a prism for national loyalty. For me and maybe millions of others, a victory by an Italian, Spaniard or Swede in the recent Ryder Cup was as welcome as one by an Englishman, as long as an American was on the receiving end. And as an Arsenal supporter, I would look most benignly on a Dutch victory over Glenn Hoddle's team if a couple of Dennis Bergkamp goals were responsible.

So much, too, for the celebrated Tebbit "cricket" test - that you can't be English if you don't support the national cricket team. What about Nasser Hussain, Mark Ramprakash, the Holiokes, Devon Malcolm, Andy Caddick - colonials all of various hues? Support the team? They are the team. Yesterday, typically, Norman Tebbit would yield no ground: "If a society does not integrate, it will tend to disintegrate ... It will be a little while before we look at the Notting Hill Carnival the same way as we do Morris dancing." But one thing is certain. Sooner, rather than later, we will.

Have you left anyone out of your Will?



Give your pet a home for life by leaving a legacy to The Blue Cross

Do you worry about what would happen to your pet if you were no longer there? By leaving a legacy to The Blue Cross, you can help us give your companion food, shelter, kindness and cuddles for the rest of his life.

Every year, The Blue Cross rescue thousands of homeless pets. We look after them all until loving, new homes can be found, no matter how long it takes - that's a promise.

If you would like us to care for your best friend when you're gone, return the coupon below to find out more about making a legacy to The Blue Cross.

Protect your pet's future - find out more about remembering The Blue Cross in your Will.

Please send me a FREE advice booklet on making a Will and leaving a legacy to The Blue Cross.

I have already made a Will and would like to find out how I can leave a legacy to The Blue Cross.

Name: *Mr/Mrs/Ms*
Address:

Send to: Chichester Posts, The Blue Cross,
Freepost, Room 901C, Shilton Road,
Burford, Oxon OX18 4BR.
Registered Charity Number 224492.

THE BLUE CROSS

The year's best poem?

Lavinia Greenlaw's poem, published here today - National Poetry Day - last night won the Forward prize for the year's best poem. The writer is poet-in-residence at the law firm Mishcon de Reya.

A WORLD WHERE NEWS TRAVELED SLOWLY

It could take from Monday to Thursday and three horses. The ink was unstable, the characters cramped, the paper tore where it creased. Stained with the leather and sweat of its journey, the envelope absorbed each climatic shift, as well as the salt and grease of the rider who handed it over with a four-day chance that by now things were different and while the head had to listen, the heart could wait.

Semaphore was invented at a time of revolution; the judgement of swing in a vertical arm. News travelled letter by letter, along a chain of towers, each built within telescopic distance of the next. The clattering mechanics of the six-shutter telegraph still took three men with all their variables added to those of light and weather, to read, record and pass the message on.

Now words are faster, smaller, harder ... we're almost talking in one another's arms. Coded and squeezed, what chance has my voice to reach your voice unaltered and then to leave no trace? Nets tighten across the sky and the sea bed. When London made contact with New York, there were such fireworks City Hall caught light. It could have burned to the ground.

Greenspan's warning shakes markets world-wide

Alan Greenspan went out of his way yesterday to remind US financial markets that the boom cannot last. The Fed Chairman's unexpected remarks shook Wall Street, where they were read as an early warning of higher interest rates.

Diane Coyle and David Usborne report on a day of pandemonium in the financial markets

As a reaction to a statement of the obvious, it was *desmotic*. The Dow Jones index plunged 115 points to 8,062, a 2 per cent fall, and the benchmark long-term Treasury bond shed almost 2 full points in price within minutes of testimony by the Federal Reserve Chairman yesterday.

Wall Street regained some of its poise later, recouping some of its losses. But Alan Greenspan rattled the financial markets world-wide as he repeated his fears that the continuing optimism about the US economy may be gravely overstated.

In London the FTSE 100 index ended nearly 44 points lower at 5,262.1, and gilts fell sharply. Nerves were already slightly frayed as traders waited for the Bank of England's decision on interest rates, due at noon today, even though most analysts expect no change.

Mr Greenspan, speaking before a committee of the House of Representatives yesterday, said the US economy had been on an "unsustainable track". He also warned that it would be "unrealistic" to expect the stock market to carry on climbing at its recent pace.

The remarks were taken as a fresh warning that Mr Greenspan may soon increase interest rates to prick what he views as a dangerous financial bubble, marked by the climbing equity market.

With the tenth anniversary of the 19 October 1987 crash, when Wall Street fell 23 per cent in a single day, looming ominously, Mr Greenspan focused on the increasingly tight US jobs market. He expressed the fear that an unemployment rate below 5 per cent must inevitably lead at some point to wage pressures that would fuel inflation.

"There would seem to be emerging constraints on potential labour input," he said. "If the recent 2 million plus annual pace of job creation were to continue, the pressures on wages ... could escalate more rapidly." And echoing comments he made last December about "irrational behaviour" on Wall Street, Mr Greenspan again suggested that the pace of growth in stock prices will not be sustainable.

"It clearly would be unrealistic to look for a continuation of stock market gains of anything like the magnitude of those recorded in the past couple of years," Mr Greenspan said.

"In equity markets, continual upward revisions of long-term corporate earnings expectations have driven price-earnings ratios to levels not often observed at this stage of an economic expansion."

The shock of his testimony was all the greater because it had been billed as a general overview of the economy with little news value. While Mr Greenspan may be hoping that his comments alone may help to cool some of the ardour for

stocks, many economists took them as a clear warning that at its next meeting, the Fed might feel obliged to raise rates.

"He has gone out of his way deliberately to give the markets a fright," said Ian Shepherdson of HSBC Markets in New York.

"He is ready to put his money where his mouth is," suggested David Jones of Aubrey Langston. "He is ready to tighten money conditions and I think that is the essential change we are seeing today."

The Fed has not altered monetary policy since it raised US rates marginally last March. Since then, however, the momentum in economic growth and market escalation has shown no signs of fading.

The unemployment rate, for example, has remained at levels lower than at any time in the past 25 years. Mr Greenspan said there were not enough working-age people in America to meet demand for labour at the current pace. "The law of supply and demand has not been repealed."

The Fed chairman acknowledged that, as yet, there have been no signs of any pickup in inflation or indeed in wage costs. The latter, he said, was in part because of the effect of the strengthened exchange rate of the dollar as well as a continuing unwillingness in the workforce to demand wage increases because of lingering insecurity about jobs.

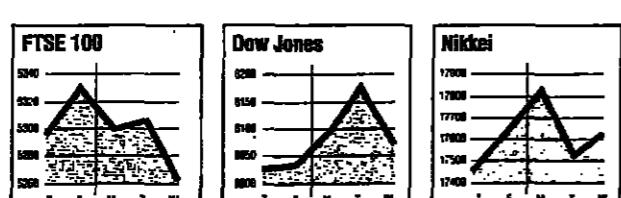
"The force of insecurity may be fading," the chairman said, however. "A re-emergence of inflation is, without question, the greatest threat to sustaining what has been a balanced economic expansion virtually without parallel in recent decades."

Outlook, page 23



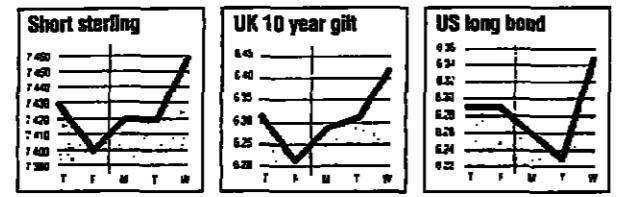
Alan Greenspan: The Federal Chairman's remarks were seen as an early warning of a rise in US interest rates

STOCK MARKETS



FTSE 100							
Index	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)	
FTSE 100	5262.10	-43.50	-0.82	5330.80	3900.40	3.32	
FTSE 250	4882.30	6.30	0.13	4883.90	4348.10	3.30	
FTSE 350	2528.40	-16.30	-0.64	2565.30	1949.20	3.30	
FTSE All Share	2469.13	-14.32	-0.58	2492.41	1925.75	3.28	
FTSE SmallCap	2380.30	6.70	0.37	2374.20	2128.40	3.07	
FTSE Flotilla	1302.20	1.40	0.11	1346.50	1198.70	3.21	
FTSE AIM	1007.30	-2.50	-0.25	1198.00	1003.80	0.98	
Dow Jones	8067.80	-105.80	-1.29	8299.31	5921.67	0.65	
Nikkei	17616.16	107.98	0.62	21612.30	17349.65	0.67	
Hong Kong	14338.52	27.76	0.19	16673.27	12055.17	2.80	
Dax	4347.24	39.85	0.93	4438.93	2659.25	1.83	

INTEREST RATES



Bond Yields							
Index	3 month	1 yr	1 yr cdg	10 year	1 yr chg	Long bond	1 yr chg
UK	7.37	1.43	7.57	1.32	6.43	6.62	-1.34
US	5.72	0.19	5.91	0.09	6.06	4.85	-0.45
Japan	0.53	0.04	0.58	-0.05	1.96	-0.84	2.61
Germany	3.40	0.29	3.76	0.52	5.48	-0.49	6.08

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Main Price Changes							
	Prices (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg	Falls	Prices (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg
Oil	223.00	39.50	13.93	Brit Biotech	127.50	-10.70	-7.27
Gas	553.50	35.90	6.78	Biocon	920.00	-25.00	-4.59
Cap Radio	512.00	24.50	5.03	De la Rue	392.50	-13.00	-3.21
Skyphone	53.50	2.50	4.80	Lucasfilm	226.5	-7.5	-3.21

CURRENCIES

Currencies							
	£/US	DM/£	\$/£				
Dollar	1.6196	-0.32c	1.5629	Sterling	0.8175	+0.13p	0.6389
D-Mark	2.8404	-1.23p	2.3610	D-Mark	1.7518	-0.57p	1.5278
Yen	156.01	-4.91	174.52	Yen	121.03	-4.57	111.63
£ Index	100.40	-0.10	86.90	\$ Index	104.80	-0.10	97.30

OTHER INDICATORS

	Crude	Oil	Crude	Oil	Crude	Oil	Crude
Barrel Oil (US)	20.85	0.09	23.89	GDP	112.80	3.50	109.0
Gold (\$)	333.85	2.10	381.05	RPI	159.30	3.6	153.76
Silver (\$)	5.25	0.07	4.89	Base Rates	7.00	5.75	7.07

source: Bloomberg



Dow Jones International

Price Index

9000

8000

7000

6000

5000

4000

3000

2000

1000

0

84 86 88 90 92 94 96

84 86 88 90 92 94 96

84 86 88 90 92 94 96

84 86 88 90 92 94 96

84 86 88 90 92 94 96

84 86 88 90 92 94 96

84 86 88 90 92 94 96

84 86 88 90 92 94 96

84 86 88 90 92 94 96

84 86 88 90 92 94 96

84 86 88 90 92 94 96

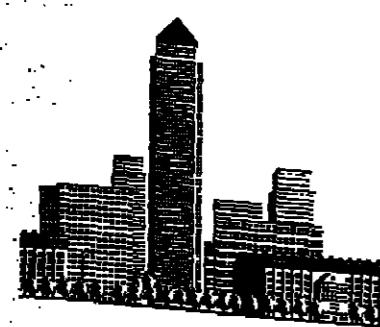
84 86 88 90 92 94 96

84 86 88 90 92 94 96

84 86 88 90 92 94 96

هذا من الأصل

Alan Greenspan; this time it's serious



OUTLOOK
ON THE FED
CHAIRMAN'S
LATEST WARNING,
ACCESSIONG THE
INTERNET VIA
ELECTRICITY CABLES,
AND WH SMITH

Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, rarely gets quoted entirely accurately on anything. So it was perhaps inevitable that his uncontentious observation yesterday that it was not realistic "to look for a continuation of stock market gains of anything like the magnitude of those recorded in the past couple of years" should have become distorted into the bald assertion that stock prices were "unrealistically high". Plainly, there is a world of a difference.

All the same, what he actually did say was sobering enough. Mr Greenspan's normally delphic testimony to the US House of Representatives was for a change, unambiguous. Mr Greenspan is not a believer in the "new paradigm", the theory that the US has abolished the business cycle, that the economy is on a sustainable glide path of low inflation and high growth into the indefinite future. Mr Greenspan is far too wise an old bird to call the theory so much hooey; the American public doesn't like to hear that kind of thing. But he might well have done.

Choosing his words carefully, Mr Greenspan said: "Short of a marked slowing in the demand for goods and services and hence, labour - or a degree of acceleration of productivity growth that appears unlikely - the imbalance between the growth in labour demand and the expansion of potential labour supply of recent years must eventually erode the current state of inflation quiescence, and with it the solid growth of real activity". What he

is saying here is that to head off inflationary pressures in the US economy, the Fed needs to slow the demand for labour. The only way it can do this is in (inevitably) a raise in interest rates.

Mr Greenspan was less clear on timing, but a small rise in rates when the Fed's open markets committee meets next month now looks highly likely. What will this do to the markets? When Mr Greenspan warned of "irrational exuberance" in financial markets last December, they took not a blind bit of notice.

Since then the Dow Jones Industrial average has risen a further 30 per cent.

On that occasion, however, there was nothing in the way of action to halt the rise in asset valuations, only words. This time round he looks intent on going further by prickling the bubble with a rise in rates.

Furthermore, regardless of whatever

action the Fed takes, the implication of what Mr Greenspan is saying here is quite

bearish. Financial markets have priced in an optimistic outlook, he said. One characteristic of this process is a continual upward revision of longer term corporate earnings forecasts which has driven price/earnings ratios to levels never before seen at this stage of the economic cycle.

Running parallel to this has been a

marked increase in the perceived rate of

return for new business ventures which in

turn is leading to a sharp increase in capi-

tal investment. In other words, we have

here all the elements of a dangerous specu-

lative spiral. Mr Greenspan would not

want the market to crash. But he is say-

ing as plainly as he can: cool it, or we will all be sorry.

United gives the Internet a plug

When Sir Desmond Pitcher embarked on his madcap scheme to create the ultimate multi-utility, the joke was that it would only be a matter of time before he began offering a telephone service down the same line as water, electricity and gas.

Life sometimes imitates fiction and that is what is about to happen at United Utilities. Not content with proving that water and electricity mix about as well as the executive chairman does with his chief executives, the company is about to throw another utility into the mix. Next year United Utilities plans to start a pilot trial linking customers of Norweb to the Internet via their domestic electricity supply. Even if you can get over the (electric) shock of it, the thought of connecting to the World Wide Web in this way still sounds far-fetched. Pick up the iron and make that call.

Norweb is certain the technology works and has got a fistful of worldwide patents to prove it. Moreover, it has the backing of Nortel, one of the world's biggest telecom equipment groups. Isolate the electrical noise that causes power cables to interfere with communications signals, and low voltage electricity cables turn into the perfect local area network for broadband data transmission. The pos-

sibilities are endless - CD quality audio, video clips and high-speed gaming, all delivered via the meter under the stairs.

Where the strategy looks dangerously like falling apart is in the marketing. A quarter of households may now possess a personal computer, if you believe the propaganda, but just 2.5 per cent are linked to the Internet. To make the idea pay its way, the men from Norweb have to persuade 10 per cent of its 2 million customers to connect to the Internet via its cables, which looks like a hopelessly tall order.

Undaunted they dream of the day when customers will literally be able to connect to the Internet by plugging a three pin plug into the wall. Now if Sir Des could arrange for the water and gas to be piped in that way too...

Why Smiths will have to look again

WH Smith has made two serious misjudgements in the last week's stand-off with Tim Waterstone. It thought that if it told him to go away and forget his ludicrous proposals, he would shrug his shoulders and go home.

The company underestimated the determination that almost two decades of rancour can engender.

It has also misjudged the willingness of its owners to turn a blind eye to a truly pathetic share price performance since last summer. Since August last year, the shares have fallen by 23 per cent, under-

performing the rest of the market in that time by over 40 per cent. Blithely to reject all proposals in these circumstances suggests wholly unjustified arrogance.

It is hardly surprising that investors have been willing this week to do what Richard Handover and friends have resolutely refused to - sit down with Mr Waterstone and hear what he has to say. It is no less surprising that many of them have subsequently picked up the phone and told the company to get its act together and do the same.

There is little doubt that the proposals as reported offer rather more to Mr Waterstone and SBC Warburg than to shareholders, and they should and will be improved. In any circumstances, a premium for control of perhaps 30 per cent is reasonable - after such dramatic under-performance it is a bare minimum.

The acquisition of Daisy & Tom for an undefined but probably inflated figure also looks silly, even though it may have been no more than a ruse by SBC to get Mr Waterstone on board. Furthermore, the warants look a pretty generous reward for a plan which is hardly rocket science.

For the risk averse fund manager, the final straw for the Warburg plan as presented is the way it combines the retailer's inherent operational gearing with a sizeable slice of financial leverage as well.

So the plan needs changing. Having sounded out shareholders, the Waterstone camp is now in a position to put something more realistic on the table. Only that will make Smiths drop its ridiculous pretence that it can carry on as if nothing had happened.

Investors press WH Smith to meet Waterstone

Institutional pressure
yesterday continued to
drive WH Smith to
a meeting with its
would-be chief executive,
Tim Waterstone.

Tom Stevenson, Financial
Editor, reports on the
high-stakes poker game
between the retailer and
its ambitious nemesis.

A meeting between Tim Waterstone and WH Smith's board moved closer yesterday after some of the retailer's biggest shareholders told the company they disagreed with its blanket rejection of last week's takeover proposals.

It also emerged that the Waterstone camp, together with its advisers at SBC Warburg Dillon Read, were prepa-

ring a compromise proposal that would attempt to soothe investors' concerns about the level of borrowings proposed for Mr Waterstone's takeover vehicle.

The takeover team is also understood to be preparing a more flexible position on what has emerged as a further sticking point with a number of shareholders, the valuation attributed to Mr Waterstone's private retail concept, Daisy & Tom, which would be taken over by WH Smith as part of the deal.

Up to one-half of WH Smith's top investors are thought to favour a rapprochement between the two sides and have approached the company or its broker, Cazenove, to insist a meeting should take place. Jeremy Hardie, the chairman of Smiths, who has remained silent on the proposals since they

were rejected, is thought likely to be a prominent figure in the renewed discussions.

WH Smith restated its rejec-

tion of Mr Waterstone's

proposals yesterday and said it

had no intention of meeting

with its former employee. De-

spite the rising groundswell of

opinion against its stance, the

company has refused to devi-

ate from its line that Mr Wa-

terstone's proposals offer

nothing worth discussing.

Mr Waterstone approached

Mr Hardie 10 days ago with

proposals that would see him

replace Richard Handover as

chief executive of the station-

ery, music and books re-

tailer. He believed he was

involved in confidential talks

until a pre-emptive rejection by

the retailer last Thursday put

the bid on to the back foot.

The SBC Warburg-devised

plan would have seen around

£600m of debt taken on by the

company to fund a 200p hand-

out to shareholders, the sale of

the Our Price record chain

and WH Smith's US opera-

tions, and a radical overhaul of

the core high street chain.

Institutions seen by the Wa-

terstone team this week are

understood to have been inter-

ested in the planned changes,

but some have expressed con-

cern about an injection of debt

that would see gearing rise to

about 80 per cent of share-

holders' funds. They are also

concerned that Daisy & Tom,

which recently started trading

from one shop on London's

King's Road, is to be acquired in

exchange for too big a share

holding in the new company.

Although Warburgs believe

the injection of £600m of bor-

rowings would create the most

efficient capital structure for

the cash-generative retailer, it

is thought to be drawing up a

new proposal which would see

less than 200p a share being

handed back to shareholders.

It is also looking at plans to

make any acquisition of Daisy

& Tom less reliant on an up-

front payment and more on an

earnout which would only cost

WH Smith shareholders if the

concept proved successful.

Not all WH Smith's share-

holders were enthusiastic about

change. One leading investor

said he retained doubts about

the bookseller's ability to run

a business of WH Smith's size.

He welcomed the approach,

however, for the galvanising ef-

fect it was likely to have on the

company's new management.

The retailer's shares closed

5.5p lower yesterday at 386p,

but are trading around 20p

higher than before Mr Wa-

terstone's approach was

publicised.

It is thought to be drawing up a

new proposal which would see

less than 200p a share being

handed back to shareholders.

It is also looking at plans to

make any acquisition of Daisy

& Tom less reliant on an up-

front payment and more on an

earnout which would only cost

WH Smith shareholders if the

concept proved successful.

Not all WH Smith's share-

holders were enthusiastic about

change. One leading investor

said he retained doubts about

the bookseller's ability to run

a business of WH Smith's size.

He welcomed the approach,

however, for the galvanising ef-

fect it was likely to have on the

company's new management.

The retailer's shares closed

5.5p lower yesterday at 386p,

but are trading around 20p

Sleepy Kids seeks new MD to revive merchandising

Sleepy Kids, the embattled animation company which owns the rights to 'Budgie the Helicopter', has bowed to pressure to beef up the management team. *Cathy Newman reports.*

Shares in Sleepy Kids have fallen to 14p from a high of 117p three years ago. Now, the husband and wife team that founded the company in 1985 is taking action to show the City they mean business by searching for a managing director for their merchandising business, one of the group's most important divisions.

However, despite a determined trawl through the industry, no takers for the post have yet been found.

Martin Powell, the company's chairman, said yesterday the new recruit would "exploit the properties we own", which include *The Disguisables*, an action adventure series for children, and *Dr Zitzag's Transylvania Pet Shop*.

Mr Powell, who is running the merchandising division with his wife, said: "We're going to want a particular individual to take the reins. There are five or six strong candidates."

Sleepy Kids has come under increasing pressure from shareholders after failing profits and a series of problems with its core product, Budgie, which

was created by the Duchess of York. The company became embroiled in a £2.2m (£14m) legal battle with Budgie's marketing agents earlier this year, and ITV failed to commission a fourth series of the cartoon. Fox Children's Network has also axed the series.

Sleepy Kids is reportedly seeking bidders for Budgie to raise cash for new projects. Mr Powell said yesterday he could never rule out disposing of assets, but there were no plans to sell Budgie at the moment.

Profits for the 14 months to December 1996 slid to £292,000, from £890,000 the year before. Mr Powell blamed a delay in completing a deal to distribute Budgie videos in the United States.

Stagecoach to order 515 buses

Stagecoach Holdings, the train and bus company run by Brian Souter, said yesterday that it was planning to order 515 buses for 1998 at a cost of £50m. This follows an order worth £89m last November for 625 buses. Stagecoach said the new fleet would include a "standardised range of low-entry, easily accessed vehicles, including midibuses, single-deck and double-deck buses." A spokesman added: "Following this order, the average age of our UK fleet will be approximately seven years against an estimated industry average of 10 years." He said suppliers for the latest order include MAN, Trinity Holdings' subsidiary Dennis Specialist Vehicles, Volvo, Mercedes-Benz and Mayflower Corporation's bus-making arm Walter Alexander.

Triplex rejects mystery bidder

Triplex Lloyd, the engineering group, said it had rejected takeover overtures from a mystery bidder. The company said that takeover discussions had taken place, but they "were unlikely to lead to an offer capable of being recommended to shareholders". Some analysts now expect a hostile bidder for the embattled engineer to emerge.

BCH seeks London listing

Vehicle management company BCH is to list on the London Stock Exchange. BCH, which in 1996 recorded operating profits of £2.7m on sales of £56.5m, is to seek listing via a share placing, scheduled for November. HSBC Investment Bank is sponsoring the flotation, which will be brokered by Panmure Gordon & Co.

Frogmore profits rise 65%

Frogmore Estates, the British property developer, saw year-end profits soar to £25.6m yesterday, an increase of 65 per cent. Total dividends rose to 20p a share. Profits were helped by a significant contribution from County Hall, former home of the GLC, and demand in London generally was strong. Chairman Dennis Cope said he was looking to the future "with confidence". The shares rose 5p to close at 562.5p.

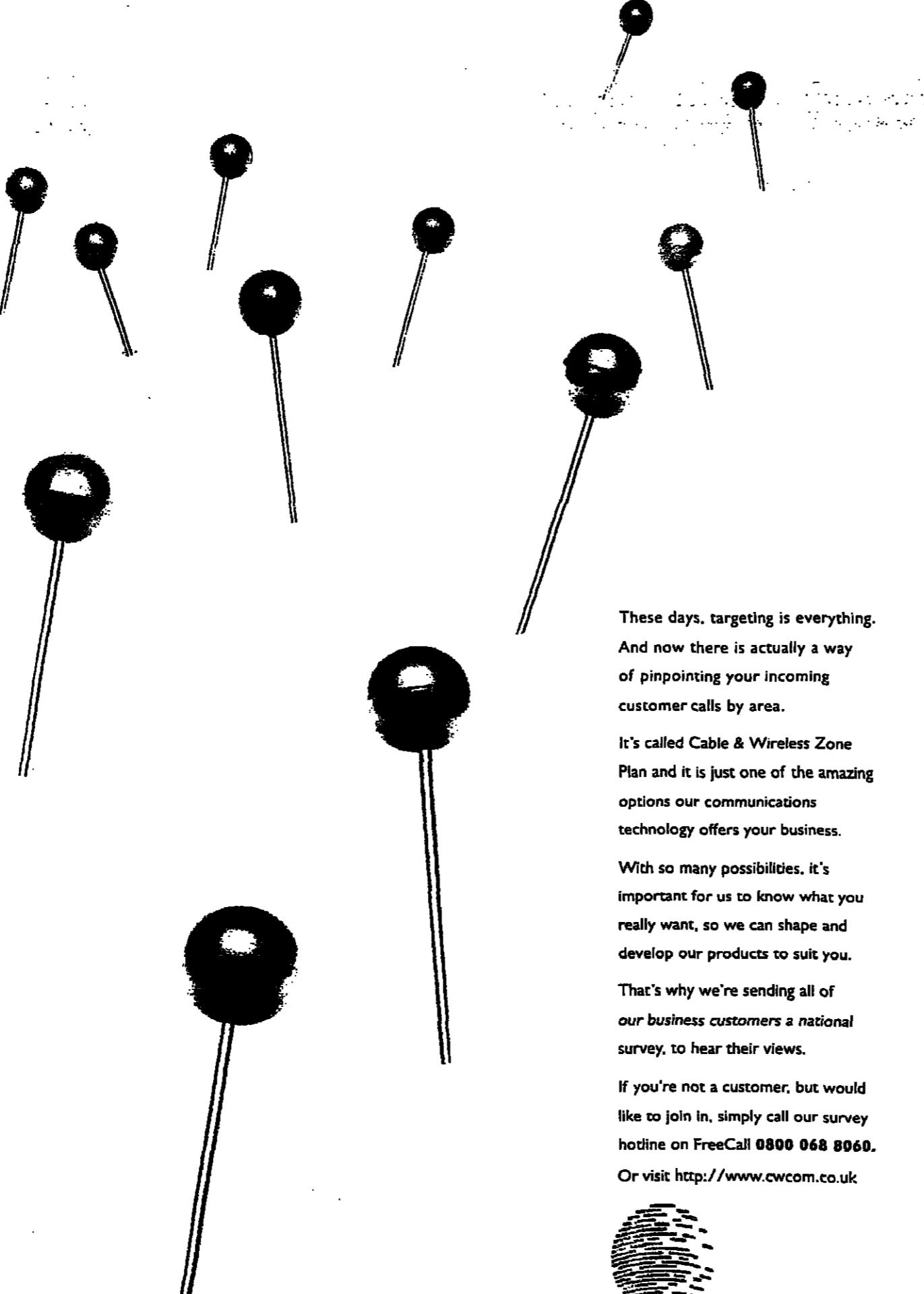
IMI pays £86m for valve maker

Engineering group IMI is to buy German valve maker Herion-Werke for £86m. The deal, announced yesterday, will take IMI's gearing to 70 per cent. Nick Paul, IMI's deputy chief executive, said that there were opportunities for "sales and product synergies".

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Alexander Workwear (I)	36m (35.4m)	2.225m (-724,000)	5.6p (4.4p)	2.5p (2.6p)
BATH Advanced Coatings (I)	44.72m (85.42m)	\$1.001m (\$1.501m)	3.22p (0.62p)	n/a
Bridport-Gentry (F)	22.6m (35m)	-2.437m (1.451m)	-18.08p (8.76p)	4.55p
N Brown (I)	158.2m (131.4m)	10.014m (16.626m)	8.43p (7.35p)	2.25p (2.0p)
Carbo (I)	45.3m (51.6m)	707,000 (411,000)	0.43p (0.35p)	0.5p (0.5p)
Frogmore Estates (F)	181.8m (147.2m)	23.7m (15.45m)	36p (18p)	20p
Goldsmiths Group (I)	31.6m (23.1m)	-305,000 (54,000)	-0.88p (0.18p)	2.75p (2.4p)
Silentnight Holdings (I)	107.8m (99.8m)	5.815m (4.901m)	8.82p (7.31p)	3.20p (3.4p)
Time Products (I)	43.3m (48.3m)	9.905m (9.656m)	12.43p (11.25p)	4.6p (4.5p)
Tyco Precision (F)	25.1m (38.4m)	-706,000 (1.357m)	-3.5p (0.0p)	2.75p (2.0p)
(F) - Final (I) - Interim				

Would you like a phone system that tells you where your customers live?



THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

N Brown fall not as bad as it seems

N Brown, the Manchester-based mail order group, has been one of the most reliable performers in the retail sector over the past few years.

It was surprising to see the shares dip yesterday on news of a fall in operating margins in the first half.

Though that ratio slipped to 12.8 per cent compared to 13.4 per cent in the first half last year, the news was not nearly as bad as first appeared.

Though the 12.4 per cent increase in first-half profits to £18m did not match the 19 per cent sales increase, the reasons were more about investing in future growth than short-term problems.

Net margins were affected by a significant and planned increase in the number of new customers attracted to the group's raft of catalogues.

New customers are loss-making for the group in the first year as their spend is low compared to more seasoned shoppers. They only start to become profitable in years two or three, so seeds sown now will be reaped in 1998-99.

Second, the company now fulfils around 30 per cent of its deliveries via its own couriers, which gives it greater control, but has come at a cost of £500,000.

Like-for-like group sales rose by an impressive 19 per cent on last year. Current trading since the end of the half has not been so good, but that includes a flat

With British folks only replacing their bed once in 15 years on average and prices static at around £300 for an average double, the UK bed market has little room to grow. That said, after a downturn in the 1990s, rising consumer spending means the market is now bouncing back. Silentnight achieved an impressive 13 per cent rise in bed sales in the last quarter, boosted by post-election confidence, to give an overall 9.4 per cent lift at the half year.

However, Bill Simpson, chief executive, says Silentnight's UK laminated cabinet division, currently 30 per cent of group turnover, is the key to long-term growth. Assembled laminated furniture is cheaper than solid wood and as technology improves increasingly popular. Silentnight has around half the UK market and has been growing cabinet sales at some 15 per cent a year for the past six years.

Consolidation among UK furniture retailers - witness yesterday's H&C bid for Kingsbury - will benefit the big players. Silentnight, with cash in the bank, will undoubtedly be looking to buy up casualties from that trend. It has already picked up cabinet business Meredew on the cheap. Though still loss-making, the business is recovering and adds valuable capacity.

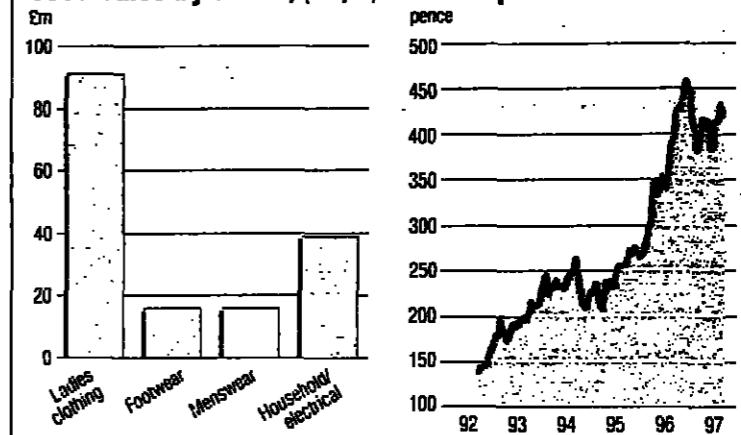
The failure of a US furniture retailer hit Silentnight's US bed profits, but that is a one-off and cautious expansion into a strong US market will continue. Analysts forecast £16m for the full year. On 13.5 times, the shares, down 17.5p to 31.5p after a strong run on Tuesday, look reasonable value.

N.Brown: At a glance

Market value: £602.2m, share price 412.5p

Trading record	1995	1996	1997	96/97	97/98
Turnover (£m)	208.2	230.8	280.5	131.4	156.2
Pre-tax profits (£m)	26.5	31.2	37.1	16.0	18.0
Earnings per share (p)	12.3	14.4	17.0	7.35	8.43
Dividends per share (p)	4.8	5.7	6.8	2.0	2.25

1997 sales by sector, (Half year)



two weeks as a result of the shopper apathy which followed the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Other mail order groups are understood to have experienced the same. N Brown's sales have recovered in the three weeks since the death.

Jim Martin, N Brown's chief executive, is continuing his strategy of recruiting more shoppers in the 30 to 40-year age range to the catalogues whose core constituency has historically been the over 50s.

The younger group now accounts for 19 per cent of group sales, 29 per cent ahead on last year. The company is also investing £20m this year on warehouse expansion and computer upgrades.

No acquisitions are on the horizon. The company says, though a return to the Freemans deal is always possible if the competition authorities block Littlewoods' purchase from Sears.

On full-year forecasts of £42m the shares, down 5p to 412.5p yesterday, trade on a forward ratio of 21 times.

That is a 20 per cent premium to the market, but given the shares were rated at a 40 per cent premium a year ago, they are starting to look good value.

Beds do better for Silentnight

Which way are investors in the UK's bed-making market to turn? As yesterday's announcements clearly show, the two biggest players, Silentnight and Airsprung, are having very different experiences. While Airsprung warned its half-year results would fall substantially below expectations, stripping 27 per cent off its share price, Silentnight, the UK's biggest bed and laminated furniture maker, is going great guns, reporting interim profits to August almost a fifth higher at £6m.

Airsprung's problems look very specific. While its beds business remains comfortable, Airsprung flagged up serious management shortcomings and quality problems at a couple of recently acquired companies. That leaves Silentnight as a more reliable bellwether of the UK furniture market and a far better bet for investors.

Goldsmiths extends its chain

On the face of it, Jurek Piasecki, head of jewellery retailer Goldsmiths, had little reason to smile yesterday. He revealed that the company had slipped into the red in the six months to August, with losses of just over £300,000. The group's share price closed 9p down at 331.5p.

It all seems a far cry from last year's *rosy sentiment*, when Goldsmiths unveiled its first profits since flotation in 1990 and said it wanted to bid for the UK jewellery businesses of Signet, the former Ratners group. But although first-half figures are undeniably grim, the true picture is not all bad.

Following its disappointment with the Signet deal, Mr Piasecki decided that if Goldsmiths couldn't grow by acquisition, it would have to grow organically. In January, he placed 1.1 million shares to raise the necessary cash. Rival Signet currently has a far larger retail network than Goldsmiths, but Mr Piasecki is intending to beat Signet at its own game. Six shops have opened already this year and another nine are due for the second half. Twenty shops are scheduled for 1998 and a further 20 for 1999.

The cost of opening these new shops is one reason why first-half figures look poor. The other is that Rolex, an important source of revenue for Goldsmiths, reduced retail margins. The expansion programme should help to reduce Goldsmiths' historical dependency on Rolex as very few of the new shops are earmarked to carry this luxury line. Goldsmiths' burgeoning insurance business and a new deal with Harrods to run its diamonds department are further reasons to think that the company's prospects look bright.

Forecasts from Charterhouse Tilney put Goldsmiths on a forward price-earnings ratio of about 17, making it look expensive. Luxury watch distributor Time Products, which announced a small increase in profit yesterday, are sitting on a p/e of about 9.

But given prospects at Goldsmiths, it might be worth hanging on to the shares.

The RPI may not measure 'real' inflation. It doesn't really matter



DIANE
COYLE
ON THE
PROBLEMS OF
PRICE INDICES

One of the complications the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee faces as it ponders, yesterday and today, what to do with interest rates, is the question of how good a guide the published inflation figures are to "true" inflation. For them is quite a vogue for arguing that the published retail price index, even on the target measure excluding mortgage interest payments, shows inflation to be higher than it really is.

This is in principle distinct from the argument that the economy has entered a new era of permanently low inflation because of a revolutionary improvement in productivity thanks to new computer technology. As Gavin Davies demonstrated in his column earlier this week, this is a questionable assertion, as low inflation in recent years can be fully explained by low growth.

But in practice, the "new era" school of thought shuns its optimism with the idea that inflation is even lower than it appears to be, because of upward biases in the price indices. The link is that one of these biases in price measurement is the omission of rapidly falling computer prices and quality improvements.

The notion of serious mis-measurement stems from the

report last year of the Boskin Commission in the US. Its economists concluded that true US inflation might be as much as a full percentage point or more below the official figure. There were several reasons for this.

One was that the index was not constructed using the lower prices charged in new kinds of retail outlets, mainly discount warehouse clubs. Nor did it include new products, like computers and other electronic goods, whose prices were falling. Nor did it take account of quality improvements that delivered better value for the same price. It missed the fact that people switch away from goods whose prices are rising too rapidly – for example, they buy chicken if fish becomes too dear. In addition, the commission criticised the formula used to construct the US consumer price index.

These conclusions proved controversial, and the US has not decided to implement them all. Meanwhile, the Office for National Statistics here has just published an assessment of how far the Boskin points apply to our Retail Price Index. The conclusion is: not very much. The RPI is based on a different formula. The UK does not have many discount clubs.

Just as important, the goods included in the RPI and the weights attached to them are updated every year on the basis of a survey of family spending patterns carried out the previous year, whereas the basket of goods in the US CPI has been updated only once a decade.

This year's RPI basket is based on 1995/96 spending patterns. The ONS has looked back at how different measured inflation would have been if the updating had been even faster. During recent years they found it to be only 0.06 to 0.07 percentage points, less than half the bias in the US figures the Boskin Commission attributed to this source.

This will not necessarily satisfy those who think the RPI

overstates inflation and therefore makes the Bank reach for the interest rate trigger too early. For the index excludes some of the goods which are seeing the fastest price falls and biggest quality improvements – computers. The reason is that measuring their price and quality has simply been too difficult.

However, the ONS has started publishing a separate price index designed to be compatible with how inflation is measured in the rest of the European Union. This figure, the "harmonised index of consumer prices" or HICP, includes computers and almost trouble-free because of their rapidly improving quality, new cars. As the chart shows, for the duration of its short existence, inflation measured by the HICP has been significantly lower than inflation measured by the RPI.

But does this make the case that inflation is "really" low and that the Bank of England has nothing to worry about? Measures of price changes are needed for different purposes. To update social security benefits, for in-

stance, an index which includes computers would probably be inappropriate, as the poorest families and pensioners buy very few of them. The Bank's interest in inflation is as an indicator of whether or not the economy is growing at a sustainable pace. Slow and steady inflation is essential as a solid platform for growth and jobs.

In a sense, therefore, it does not matter exactly which measure of inflation the Bank uses, for all tend to show the same broad trends. For month-to-month monitoring it is better to use figures that the statisticians can construct fairly promptly.

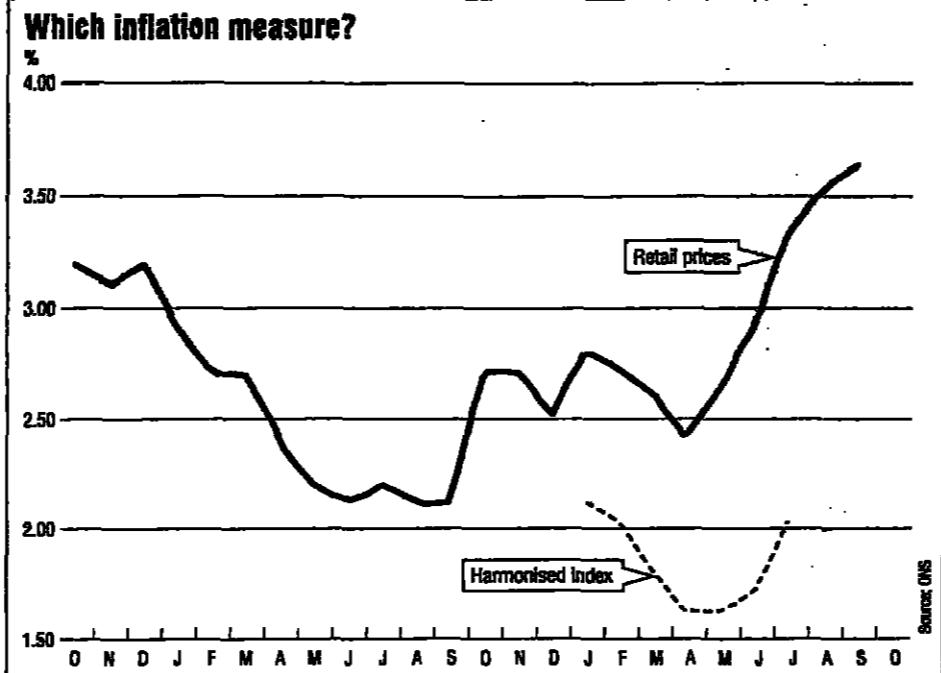
The Government's target RPI measure excludes mortgage payments for the special reason that raising interest rates to help reduce inflation actually increases the headline RPI via this channel. The Bank itself would prefer to also exclude tax-related price changes on the grounds that they contain no information about the state of the economy.

But, broadly speaking, these three – the RPI, RP1X and RP1Y – tend to show the same trends. The broader GDP deflator shows lower inflation because it includes import prices. The narrower producer price series shows lower inflation because it excludes retail margins. But any one of these would be suitable as a target measure. The key decision is setting the level of the target; and there is no convincing evidence that RPI growth of 2.5 per cent is incompatible with steady, sustainable growth and employment.

The Bank cannot entirely ignore the "new era" arguments. Technological change is making it harder to understand which prices matter. Should the ONS be measuring the price of books bought at a discount over the Internet? How can a conventional price index take account of the fact that a lot of computer software is free?

These will become more important issues over time. But there is nothing here that changes the kind of calculations the Monetary Policy Committee should be making this morning – nothing to persuade its members to relax about inflation.

Source: ONS



Source: ONS

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

JOHN
WILCOCK



The Government launched its new taskforce for the creative industries – media, music and television – yesterday after initially announcing the move to a rather muted reception three months ago. There are worrying signs, however, that this latest luvvies' crusade could turn into a flat soufflé.

Chris Smith, culture secretary, held the launch meeting at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in Trafalgar Square. The luvvies, however, were nowhere to be seen. Shame on you, Richard Branson. Tut tut, David Puttnam. On the other hand, perhaps I shouldn't be too hard on the absent personalities. They were probably off doing some proper work.

Bill Simpson, chief executive of British bed maker Silentnight, tells me Tony Blair could have done far better than buying an imported Duxiana bed for more than £3,000.

Mr Simpson is miffed that the PM didn't give more support to British industry by buying his bed locally: "Mr Blair could have bought a Sealy [bed] and who would have enjoyed the experience just as much."

The Silentnight boss says people in this country replace their beds on average once every 15 years whereas in the US they buy new beds every 10 years. Perhaps that's because American citizens tend to be larger.

Best wishes to Daniel Godfrey, marketing director of Flemings, who fell off his 1500cc Kawasaki motorbike. "I had to spend several hours in casualty – I had a couple of cracked ribs and rather a large hole in my left leg," our hero tells me. The bike was hardly damaged but he won't be riding it again. Now he's interesting himself in safer pursuits, such as helping launch Flemings' Eastern Europe Fund on 18 October.

Jonathan Hellwell, HSBC James Capel's senior European media analyst, is moving to

Goldman Sachs. Mr Hellwell started as a printing and paper analyst at Kleinwort Benson in 1986 before moving on to Swiss Bank Corporation and then Capel.

Mr Hellwell will join Goldman's media team of Guy Lamming and Mathew Walker. In typical musical-chairs fashion, Mr Lamming started off at James Capel, left for Goldman, then went to SBC Warburg and last May went back to Goldman. Mr Lamming used to work alongside Neil Blackley, who left Goldman for Merrill Lynch in August last year.

Goldman has also signed Francis Woolley, a top rated European telecoms analyst, currently at UBS.

The independent insolvency firm, Buchler Phillips, has just poached a receiver from Arthur Andersen. Andersen is the giant American firm where David Buchler and Peter Phillips used to work before they founded Buchler Phillips 10 years ago.

BP has signed up Jamie Gleave, an insolvency practitioner at Andersen, to head up its new Manchester office. Simon Freathy, another Buchler Phillips partner and former Andersen man, admits his niche boutique has an excellent relationship with the Chicago-based firm. "We often refer assignments to each other." But doesn't Andersen mind having its insolvency partners nicked all the time?

"We are friendly competitors," he replies.

It's a packed calendar for the UK's receivers, despite the relative dearth of companies going bust. Next Wednesday the Insolvency Practitioners Association holds its annual Bernard Phillips Memorial Lecture. The lecture is named after the late Bernard Phillips, Peter Phillips' father, who was also a noted insolvency practitioner and who worked for Arthur Andersen.

Friendly societies are preparing to play a key role in New Labour's plans for welfare reform. So says Bob Pollard, chief executive of the Ancient Order of Foresters, who has just been elected president of the Association of Friendly Societies.

Mr Pollard will be backed up by Roy Hurley, chief executive of Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society, who has been elected vice president.

Perhaps I could take these societies more seriously if they didn't sound like Freemasons' lodges in a *Monty Python* sketch. I mean, what's the Manchester Society of Odd Fellows all about? To be fair, the societies' titles often date back to the 16th century. They were set up "to provide self help on a mutual basis" – a phrase which chimes with New Labour.

Mr Pollard says: "The Government is open to new ideas and believes that current welfare provision is not serving the poorest members of society as it should." Mr Pollard wants us to move towards a "a system that gives a hand up, not a hand out". Those words wouldn't have been out of place coming from Margaret Thatcher.

Source: Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange Rates			
Country	Sterling	Dollar	DM
UK	10000	1.6225	1.3927
Australia	2.2212	2.2205	1.7355
Austria	1.9593	1.9581	1.2331
Belgium	5.6483	5.6345	3.9985
Canada	1.7519	1.7505	1.2763
Denmark	1.7579	1.7572	1.1705
ECU	1.4465	1.4433	1.1780
Finland	8.6958	8.6744	6.4267
France	2.3155	2.2878	1.7863
Germany	1.2158	1.2074	1.0200
Greece	44.656	44.336	35.9777
Hong Kong	1.1528	1.1522	0.7788
Ireland	1.7529	1.7510	1.2575
Italy	7.2522	7.2512	5.7745
Japan	15.377	15.474	12.045
Malaysia	5.1525	5.1525	3.8702
Mexico	2.2524	2.2525	1.6780
Netherlands	3.8307	3.8281	2.9788
New Zealand	2.2520	2.2504	1.7525
Norway	2.0719	2.0694	1.6265
Portugal	2.0619	2.0565	1.5265
Saudi Arabia	0.6553	0.6464	0.4705
Singapore	2.5962	2.5720	1.8741
South Africa	7.5014	7.4914	5.2705
Spain	15.2924	15.2795	11.4785
Sweden	12.2711	12.2235	9.7547
Switzerland	2.3581	2.3299	1.8440
US	15.620	15.6000	10.0000

Source: Bloomberg

Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	16.150	10.000	Oman	0.8525	0.3855
Brazil	17.754	10.973	Pakistan	0.4050	0.2200
Chile	13.404	8.2843	Philippines	0.4050	0.2200
Czech Rep	1.5700	0.9722	Poland	0.5222	0.3400
Egypt	5.6492	3.2963	Russia	5.9203	3.6405
Ghana	3.5598	2.2000	Russia	5.9444	3.6605
Hungary	1.3154	1.0502	South Korea	1.4737	1.0100
India	5.6582	3.5000	Turkey	5.0000	3.2500
Indonesia	5.5573	3.0450	Thailand	5.0000	3.2500
Kuwait	0.4921	0.3042	Turkey	5.0000	3.2500
Nigeria	13.157	8.1500	UAE	5.9421	3.6725

Source: Bloomberg

Money Market Rates

Country	Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Treasury Bills	654.605	654.605	654.605	654.605	654.605	654.605
LIBOR	700.723	705.713	709.713	713.713	717.713	721.713
Domestic Deposits	700.723	705.713	709.713	713.713	717.713	721.713
Overnight Deposits	700.723	705.713	709.713	713.713	717.713	721.713
Eight Bank Bills	703.657	708.722	713.722	718.722	723.722	728.722
Stirling CDs	703.657	708.722	713.722	718.722	723.722	728.722
Banker CDs	557	562	567	572	577	582
UK Gilt Eds	557	562	567</td			

Nestlé set for coffee bean breakthrough

Nestlé, the international food giant, could soon be selling genetically engineered Nescafé. The company looks set to link up with ForBio, an Australian plant biotechnology group which can grow caffeine-free coffee beans. UK investors could get a slice of the action when ForBio floats in the UK next year. Sameena Ahmad reports.

Nestlé, the Swiss food giant, is expected to sign a joint venture with a plant biotechnology company, soon to float in the UK, to produce the world's first caffeine-free coffee beans. According to sources at Nestlé, the company is planning a link-up with ForBio, an Australian company specialising in plant genetics.

The deal will allow Nestlé to sell caffeine-free coffee more cheaply and with improved flavour and aroma, increasing Nestlé's stranglehold on the US \$20bn-a-year world coffee market. Nestlé makes Nescafé, the world's number-one selling instant coffee. The fast growing soluble coffee market is worth a third of the total.

ForBio, which was planning to list on the London main stock market this year valued at around £60m, has apparently delayed its flotation plans until early next year in order to conclude the deal with Nestlé. Both Nestlé and ForBio yesterday refused to comment on whether they were in discussions.

ForBio, based near Brisbane and listed on the Aus-

tralian Stock Exchange, believes it can solve two of the coffee producers' biggest headaches. At present producing caffeine-free coffee requires expensive chemical washing of the processed beans, which also impairs their flavour and smell. Removing caffeine this way costs producers \$1bn a year in the US alone.

ForBio with its US partner Integrated Coffee Technologies Inc (ICTI), in which it has a 17 per cent stake, have discovered how to genetically alter coffee plant seeds to yield caffeine-free beans.

Speaking from ForBio's offices in Woolloongabba, Queensland, Bob Mullins, head of ForBio's international operations, said large scale propagation of caffeine-free plants would be possible in two years time. Meanwhile ForBio, founded and owned by Scottish-born millionaire Bill Henderson, is collecting a breed of elite coffee plants which can ripen uniformly.

Coffee beans are found at the centre of the coffee plant's bright red, cherry-like fruit, the pulp of which must be removed before the coffee bean is processed. Any pulp left with the bean spoils the flavour when the bean is processed. Getting a batch of coffee plants to ripen uniformly increases the chances of removing all the pulp. ForBio's Rapid marker technology identifies plants most likely to produce superior flavoured beans, and selects plants with the same maturation rates.

Though Mr Mullins would not comment on any commercial aspects of their technology, in any deal with Nestlé, ForBio is likely to get a share of sales plus licence fees for its technology. Its partner ICTI, because it owns the caffeine-



Coffee time: Caffeine-free plants would be a big advantage

South-east Asia was facing a fresh financial crisis yesterday when Indonesia became the latest country to seek help from the IMF. It needs a rescue package to support a plunging currency and keep foreign reserves at a safe level. But the support is expected to be far lower than the \$17bn organised for Thailand in August. Nigel Cope reports.

Indonesia's decision to go to the International Monetary Fund was endorsed by the country's President yesterday after a monthly economic cabinet meeting concluded outside help was essential to restore confidence in the nation's currency. The rupiah has lost over 33 per cent of its value against the US dollar since July and over half its value in the last year.

Indonesia's finance minister

Marie Muhammad said: "While Indonesia's foreign exchange reserves remain at a safe level ... nevertheless in order to safeguard the situation, the government is sounding out long-term support funds from international institutions including the IMF."

Indonesia's appeal for a rescue package was supported by Michel Camdessus, the IMF's managing director, who said: "The IMF strongly supports the approach that has been followed by Indonesia which sees this as an occasion to strengthen its economic policies even if fundamentals are basically sound."

The rupiah has been in freefall since July, raising fears of widespread corporate defaults on a mountain of substantially unhedged private debt. The World Bank said a priority was to assess the scale of the Indonesia's short-term debt. The government is set to compile a list of all private loans outstanding.

Government leaders have warned of possible social unrest, remarks which political analysts said were triggered by the financial crisis. It is a crisis of confidence.

It is possible that Indonesia will not have to draw on the [rescue] package at all if confidence is restored to the economy."

Analysts said IMF support would boost confidence in Indonesia and may make it easier to reduce interest rates without damaging the currency further.

But they said the size of the programme was likely to be far less than the \$17bn (£10.5bn) organised for Thailand. They said that because of its much healthier foreign reserves, Indonesia may receive only between \$4bn and \$6bn.

The rupiah has been in freefall since July, raising fears of widespread corporate defaults on a mountain of substantially unhedged private debt. The World Bank said a priority was to assess the scale of the Indonesia's short-term debt. The government is set to compile a list of all private loans outstanding.

Government leaders have warned of possible social unrest, remarks which political analysts said were triggered by the financial crisis. It is a crisis of confidence.

PaciCorp threatens to cut bid for Energy

PaciCorp, the US utility bidding £3.7bn for the Energy Group, may cut the price of its offer if the Government imposes extra regulatory curbs before approving the deal.

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, is due to receive the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on the proposed takeover on 21 November. There are growing expectations that although the bid may be cleared, it will be subject to much tougher regulatory conditions. There is even talk of PaciCorp having to offer price reductions to customers of Eastern, Energy group's regional electricity company (REC), as the price for allowing the bid to proceed.

The bid from the Oregon-based PaciCorp in June valued Energy Group, which also owns the biggest US coal producer Peabody, at £955.5m. The current share price is £51p.

Mrs Beckett referred the bid against the advice of the director-general of Fair Trading John Bridgeman and the electricity regulator Professor Stephen Littlechild. The decision surprised the City since seven previous takeovers of RECs by US utilities had already slipped through. She defended her action, however, by saying she had concerns "over whether it will be possible to maintain adequate regulatory control over the merged company".

The MMC is thought to be paying particularly close attention to the financing of the bid which would create a group with debt of £12bn, financed partly through junk bonds, and conventional gearing of 300 per cent.

PaciCorp gave undertakings before the bid was referred to ring fence Eastern so that the debt burden was taken off its shoulders and also to provide separate regulatory accounts.

It is likely to argue against further regulatory safeguards or price concessions because the takeover will not lead to cost savings that can be passed on.

—Michael Harrison

Brussels may ease conditions to approve BA alliance

Karel Van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, gave the first hint yesterday that Brussels is prepared to compromise over the concessions it is demanding in return for approving the British Airways-American Airlines alliance.

The Commission has told the two airlines that it will block the deal unless they surrender 350 take-off and landing slots at Heathrow.

But Mr Van Miert said yesterday he would be prepared to reduce the figure if BA and American could convince him that the proposal was unworkable. "It's not an absolute figure. If there is good reason

to modify it, we'll be willing to talk about it," he said.

The Commissioner also indicated that talks with the airlines were reaching a critical phase and a solution could emerge within a few weeks.

Last week, BA's chief executive, Bob Ayling, conceded that there was now no hope of getting

the alliance up and running in time for next summer. .

Meanwhile BA yesterday announced the £65m sale of its in-flight catering business at Heathrow to Swiss Air. The disposal of the division, which employs 2,000, is part of BA's global efficiency plan.

—Michael Harrison

IN BRIEF

Sorrell is top marketing earner with £2.8m

Martin Sorrell, chief executive of WPP Group, was once again the top earner in the marketing services industry last year, with a total pay packet of £2.8m, according to the annual survey by Willott Kingston Smith. GGT Group's chairman and chief executive, Michael Greenlee, was awarded the biggest percentage pay rise in UK listed marketing companies. His pay rose 31 per cent to £466,000. The survey found the industry was prospering, with pre-tax profits of the top 50 groups almost doubling to £32m.

WPP, the media buyer, will today announce the creation of Mindshare Asia in Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Singapore and Thailand. The company will be formed from the merger of the media operations of J Walter Thompson and Ogilvy & Mather in five markets, and will have billings of over \$1bn.

Sky appoints movie man

BSkyB has moved to strengthen its management in the run-up to the launch of digital television by appointing Andrew Keyte to a new post of general manager, movies. Mr Keyte, who was head of entertainment at BBC Commercial Channels, will report to Bruce Steinberg, director of movies and pay-per-view.

Paribas looking at BZW

French bank Paribas yesterday confirmed that it was looking at parts of investment bank BZW, put up for sale by Barclays last Friday after months of speculation. Paribas, along with Germany's Commerzbank and Dutch group ING Barings, had been widely touted as a potential bidder.

Ad agencies merge

GGT Group yesterday merged its two London advertising agencies, GGT Advertising and BSTBDDP. The move, which will create an agency with billings of £230m, followed GGT's £100m acquisition of BDDP Advertising Worldwide earlier this year. The newly merged agency will be called BDDP GGT.

Airsprung profits warning

Shares in furniture maker Airsprung slumped yesterday following a first-half profits warning. The company said that "serious management shortcomings and quality problems" meant that interim results would be substantially below market expectations. At one point shares were trading at 167.5p, a fall of 29 per cent, but rallied to close at 186.5p.

The UK's Best Buy!

The Ultimate 200M-2 Specification

64Mb RAM

Memory 64Mb RAM offers the performance of the system's 32Mb RAM with the added benefit of 32Mb of extra memory for running more applications.

56K Voice Modem

Latest 56K Fax voice technology means in 200M-2 system has all the benefits of a 32Mb voice modem plus the added benefit of 32Mb of extra memory for running more applications.

24 MAX CD-ROM

High speed 24x CD-ROM drive offers maximum performance of 12 speed CD-ROM and allows programs to run and load faster.

4.3Gb Hard Disk

Large 4.3Gb hard disk with 400MB cache gives you the performance you need ready to run.

VideoPhone

VideoPhone is included and VideoPhone software is pre-installed so that you can receive incoming video calls and make your own video calls. VideoPhone costs £999 + VAT + £250.00 for tax and service levy.

200M

• Intel Pentium 200MHz processor with MMX™ technology

64Mb EDID RAM

• 4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

20 MAX CD-ROM drive

• 3D Surround Sound

64Mb graphics using 3D Systems RAM & MMX

• 4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

64Mb CD-ROM drive

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

AT-Mouse with 7 degree keys

• Software bundle including SmartSuite 97 and many other software packages

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

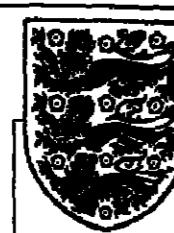
4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk

• 16x 32x 128x CD-ROM drive

4.3Gb 3.5" ATA hard disk



England under Hoddle: the men who have worn the three lions

Opponents	Date	Venue	Result	Captain	Formation	SEAMAN	WALKER	JAMES	FLOWERS	MARTYN	NEVILLE	P NEVILLE	CAMPBELL	SOUTHGATE	ADAMS	PALLISTER	KEOWN	PEARCE	HINCHCLIFFE	LE SAUX	BATTY	INCE	REDKNAPP	BECKHAM	LEE	GASCOIGNE	BUTT	MCNAMEAN	COLLYMORE	RIPPLEY	SHEARER	FERNAND	BARMBY	SHERINGHAM	FOWLER	LE TISSIER	WRIGHT	SHOLES	MCNERN	COLE		
Moldova	1 Sept 96	Chișinău	W 3-0	Shearer	3-5-2	G					CB	inj	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	M (80)	inj	M	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	
Poland	9 Oct 96	Wembley	W 2-1	Shearer	3-5-2	G					CB	inj	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	M	inj	M	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	
Georgia	9 Nov 96	Tbilisi	W 2-0	Adams	3-5-2	G					CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	M	inj	M	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	
Italy	12 Feb 97	Wembley	L 0-1	Shearer	3-4-2-1	G					CB	inj	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	*	inj	IF (76)																	
Mexico	29 Mar 97	Wembley	W 2-0	Ince	3-4-2-1	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	CB	inj	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	inj	IF (68)	*	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj
Georgia	30 Apr 97	Wembley	W 2-0	Shearer	3-5-2	G	inj				CB	sub 88	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	
South Africa	24 May 97	Old Trafford	W 2-1	Pearce	3-5-2		inj				RWB	sub 90	CB	inj	inj	CB	CB	inj	LWB	sub 92	CB	CB	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj			
Poland	31 May 97	Katowice	W 2-0	Shearer	3-5-2	G	inj				CB	sub 89	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj		
Italy	3 Jun 97	Nantes	W 2-0	Ince	3-4-2-1		inj	G			CB	sub 91	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	
France	7 Jun 97	Montpellier	W 1-0	Shearer	3-5-2	G	inj				CB	RWB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	
Brazil	10 Jun 97	Paris	L 0-1	Shearer	3-5-2	G	inj				sub 19	RWB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	
Moldova	10 Sept 97	Wembley	W 4-0	Seaman	4-3-1-2	G			inj		RB	LB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	CB	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	inj	
Italy	11 Oct 97	Rome																																								

KEY

Played

In squad but did not play

CF (78)
Position / substituted (mins)

* Added to squad after injury

sub 19
Appeared as a sub (mins)

Inj Player injured

POSITIONS:

G goalkeeper
RB right-back
LB left back
CB centre back
RM right midfield
LM left midfield

RWB right wing-back
LWB left wing-back
M central midfield
IF withdrawn striker
CF forward striker

Statistics compiled by Glenn Moore

SCORERS

Moldova Barmby, Gascoigne, Shearer
Poland Shearer 2
Georgia Ferdinand, Sheringham, Sheringham (pan), Fowler
Mexico Shearer, Sheringham
Georgia Lee, Wright
S Africa Butt
Poland Shearer, Sheringham

Italy Wright, Scholes
France Shearer
Moldova Wright 2, Scholes, Gascoigne

New caps awarded by Hoddle:
Moldova: Hinchcliffe, Beckham
Mexico: James, Butt
S Africa: Scholes

13 other players have been called up by Hoddle but have not played:
Stone, Draper, Howey, Anderson, Platt, Matteo, Mark, Bowery, Steve, Steele, Clark, Heskey and Rio Ferdinand.

jured, is back playing for Liverpool's reserves this week, but time is relatively short.

First England have to go there and Redknapp is one of eight players, including Anderton, unavailable through injury – in a week when Hoddle feels he has been lucky with injuries. It is a further indication of the difficulty of building an international team.

So is the identity of Hoddle's first goalscorer, Nick Barmby, in Moldova. He played well, but his poor club form, out of range of Hoddle's influence, means he has not played since. If that sunny afternoon in Chișinău seems a long time ago to Hoddle, it is another era to Barmby.

Jamie Redknapp, who would have been tried out in Le Tournoi had he not been in-

jured, is back playing for Liverpool's reserves this week, but time is relatively short.

The team's playing style has also evolved. Hoddle, having begun with a rigid 3-5-2 based on the German model has, like Venables, introduced greater flexibility while concentrating on having numbers in midfield.

But while Venables, building towards a European Championship on home soil, sought to create a side with the emphasis on possession and attacking width, Hoddle has had different aims. With a World Cup in France as the long-term goal, he has moulded a side which is at its best when counter-attacking.

With the onus on Italy to attack, this could be an ideal tactic on Saturday and the Italians know and fear it. They will not want to be drawn forward, but

the longer the game goes without a home goal, the more they will have. Thus it is of paramount importance that England do not go behind early on. If they do, and are forced to make the running, they will be vulnerable, as was shown at Wembley against Italy and, especially, Poland.

Defeat, and Hoddle must think of the play-offs, while a draw would allow him to continue developing his side with a series of friendlies. The big question is whether he would think there is enough time to adopt the sweeper system he favours.

Jamie Redknapp, who would have been tried out in Le Tournoi had he not been in-

signing, baring his bottom after scoring against Wimbledon and the Italian striker is to appear before a disciplinary panel charged with misconduct.

Jeff Kerr has agreed a new three-year contract which will keep him at Blackburn Rovers until the millennium. The 27-year-old defender was signed from Southampton for £1.5m two seasons ago.

Barry Horne looks set to become Peter Jackson and Terry Yorath's first signing at Huddersfield. Birmingham, who have bought the midfielder Chris Marsden from Stockport for £500,000, are prepared to let the 35-year-old Horne go on a free transfer.

Wembley will close in the summer of 1999 for a facelift that will leave only the twin towers standing. The project got the final go-ahead yesterday with the release of £20m in funding from the Sports Council. The stadium will reopen in 2002.

– Nick Dunn

Tardelli has the expertise in stress rapture

One person in particular will understand the pressures on the Italian and English players when they face each other in the Stadio Olimpico.

Marco Tardelli won a World Cup winners' medal with Italy, and will be actively involved again in Saturday's game as the No 2 to the Italian coach Cesare Maldini. He talked to Jane Nottage.

For football fans around the world Marco Tardelli's passionate celebration of the spectacular second goal of the final against West Germany was one of the definitive images of the 1982 World Cup final.

Yet little more than a fortnight earlier the Italians had been widely castigated by their

own press and supporters. Tardelli, we can assume, knows all about pressure.

"In 1982 everyone said we were finished," he said. "We had enormous pressure on us, but that made us close ranks and unite. We were more together as a team than ever before. This kind of mental strength comes from within and it is this strength that we need to win on Saturday. I think in the end the team that wins will be the one with the right mental attitude as well as talent."

As far as talent is concerned, Tardelli is impressed by many of England's young players. "One of the best England players is Paul Scholes. He was on excellent form during the Tournoi in France last summer, and since then he has come into his own. He's dangerous because you don't see him but he inflicts the most damage. You think everything is under control when suddenly there is threatening to score, and you

think: 'Where the hell did he come from?'

David Beckham is another class player, although he has yet to score for England. But the man I fear most is Glenn Hoddle. He was a classy, elegant player with great vision and passing ability, and he has incorporated that in the team. He's changed the old 4-4-2 to bring five players in defence and that combines the old style with the new. I also think both [Tony] Adams and [David] Seaman will be the cornerstones of England's defence."

In recent weeks Tardelli has made several visits to Britain, taking in the games between Wimbledon and Crystal Palace, Chelsea and Arsenal, Manchester United and Chelsea, and Manchester United and Juventus. All provided opportunities for Tardelli to help Maldini. The two formed their partnership when they looked after the Italian under-21 side, and continued with it when

Maldini was made coach of the national team last December.

Still the playing memories linger. "You know, when I walk into the Olympic Stadium on Saturday I will ask myself the same question that I always ask: 'Could I still play?' He pauses before smiling. "And the answer is always no. At first it was difficult to make the transition from player to management, but now I feel my new role is as stimulating as playing."

Things have changed since Tardelli's day, not least on the financial front. Does he think the huge pay packets have produced less hungry players? "Definitely. When you earn £100,000 a year you are still hungry for more, but when you are on a contract worth several million pounds I think it takes away the edge."

Woosnam sours Ryder success by criticising Ballesteros

The euphoria which surrounded European golf's thrilling Ryder Cup triumph was somewhat punctured yesterday when Ian Woosnam broke ranks to reveal that he had not enjoyed the tournament and launched a scathing attack on Seve Ballesteros's style of captaincy. Andy Farrell reports from Wentworth.

Victory apart, Ian Woosnam did not exactly enjoy his eighth Ryder Cup. The reason, he firmly believes, was Seve Ballesteros's style of captaincy, as he revealed in no uncertain terms yesterday when he became the first team member to sour the success with critical comments.

Clearly from the school that believes that if you don't like the way something is done, do it yourself, Woosnam has thrown his hat in the ring to take over from the Spaniard as captain for the next match in 1999.

Ballesteros did not overrule Woosnam at Valderrama, but the Welshman does not know why. The 39-year-old has

best fourball record in the history of the event, with 10 wins in 14 outings, but he played only once, winning with Thomas Bjorn, before the singles, where he collapsed to Fred Couples 8 and 7.

Woosnam, who today faces Jesper Parnevik in the first round of the World Match Play Championship here, is still far from a state of grumblment. Bristling, more like it.

"I have been part of the Ryder Cup team many times and I didn't particularly enjoy it this time," he said. "I was on a high after we won and I felt very pleased for the lads who had not played before. But I had

been there before. It was just another one for me. Just a memory.

"I would just like to have had a reason why I didn't play more. Seve did not talk to me about it, not even on the Sunday night. If he had said to me I am not playing well, or asked what my feelings were I would have felt a bit happier about it."

Not being told he was not playing was what upset Woosnam most. "It wasn't just me," he said. "Everybody was in the same boat. Seve had his own way of doing it."

When Ballesteros had said his players could find out on television who was playing, it

was not a joke, apparently. "That was right. At the end of the day it worked, yeah," Woosnam sighed.

"If I was captain, I would be more in touch with my players. I would be wanting to feel how they were feeling. Give them the opportunity if they weren't playing well to say, 'I am not playing that well'. In all the Ryder Cups I played before, there has been communication. I just didn't feel there was any this time."

A decision on who takes over from Ballesteros, who stated immediately after the match at Valderrama that he wanted to return to the ranks,

may be deferred until the qualifying for the 1999 match starts next September.

"I will have to see how I go, but I would love to be captain," Woosnam said. "It would be something great to do."

Ballesteros, who is playing with Jose Maria Olazabal in the Open Novotel Perrier Four-ball in Bordeaux this week, did not agree with Woosnam. He said:

"I think I was a good captain. I talked to the players a lot and asked them their opinions, though I always had the final decision. I did what I thought was best for the team. I gave them 100 per cent."

The view of at least one other

player immediately after the event was at odds with Woosnam's. Antonio Garrido, a compatriot of Ballesteros who was playing in his first Ryder Cup, said: "He was not a captain, he was like a father for us. We put our hands on the clubs but he was the one who played the shots."

Woosnam, who won the Volvo PGA on the same course here in May, has been World Match Play champion twice but his chance of calling the shots this time is diminished by the prospect of facing the three-time defending champion Ernie Els, who awaits the winner of Woosnam's match

against Parnevik in Friday's second round.

The South African is on a nine-game winning streak in the competition and the saturated course should suit the powerful 27-year-old even more than usual. He is also fresh from a five-week break.

"Wentworth has been good to me in the past," Els said. "I've got no idea why. I enjoy the golf course and I match play. I just go out to beat the other guy."

The 36-hole format helps, especially when you can overturn a six-hole deficit at lunchtime, as Els did against Steve Stricker last year.

FOOTBALL

Eternal optimists arrive in Eternal City

The England players have arrived in Rome full of confidence for Saturday's crucial World Cup qualifier against Italy. However, Ian Ridley finds some old hands are cautioning against complacency.

England have sometimes arrived in Italy in the past on a wing and a prayer. Last night they landed in Rome with wing-backs and a certainty in their ability to secure at least the draw they need to reach next summer's finals from Saturday's crucial World Cup qualifying match at the Olympic Stadium.

The theme of the week so far seems to have been how confident English players are now, given the showing of Euro '96, the gradual improvement during their Group Two qualifying matches and recent results in European club competition, notably Manchester United's victory over Italian champions Juventus last week. Eternal optimism for the Eternal City.

There does seem a brashness and absence of fear within the England squad, notably among the younger players. David Beckham, one of United's stars, went even further, believing that expectations of victory are not far-fetched. "We are not scared," he insisted. "At United, Alex Ferguson breeds us to win."

"I think there is a new feeling, not just in the players but through the country with the fans who have been watching us for the past couple of years," he added. And the prospect of playing as right wing-back and confronting Paolo Maldini?

"Great player, but I don't fear anyone."

The experienced England watcher always bristles at such hostage to fortune stuff, which recalls the opening titles of *Dad's Army* and that triangular Union Flag snapping defiantly at the Continent before withdrawing. From the comfort of one's own country, crowing does come easy. Once there, the size of the task suddenly becomes apparent.

It has been left to some of the older heads to counsel against confidence turning to complacency. Paul Ince, veteran of two seasons with Internazionale, has already spoken this week of how dangerous the wounded Italians will be that they need victory to go through automatically. The England goalkeeping coach, Ray Clemence, believes that silencing the crowd will be the important initial task.

"The Italians will believe they can win this game, but because they are a very proud nation, if it doesn't go right for them, the crowd can turn on the players quite quickly," said Clemence, who returned to Rome to win the European Cup with Liverpool in 1977 having lost 2-0 with England the previous year in an equally epic encounter.

"If you can turn the crowd on their own team, you are heading in the right direction to get a result. The atmosphere will be electric and it will be about players who have played big games for their clubs and know how to handle the situation," Clemence said.

Temperament will thus be important, and Beckham's will stand the test, having re-examined himself after his suspension from the sum-

mer game against Brazil and having spoken to his club manager after the recent United game against West Ham when, for a while, it was clear that taunts about Beckham's girlfriend, Spice Girl Victoria Adams, had upset him.

"The manager has spoken to me about playing my game and the opponents, not the fans but I don't think there is a problem there really. It's going to be really hyped up on Saturday and hard to control your reaction but it's England here, not a Sunday league team so I have got to control myself," he said.

Hoddle clearly believes he will and believes, indeed, that Beckham and his young United team-mates are more than capable of meeting the challenge. "The United players are certainly in advance of their years as footballers, that's for sure," he said.

He preferred, too, to cast out the past mistakes of England in Italy, or indeed in not qualifying for previous World Cup finals. This year and next will be pivotal years for the English game, the Football Association's new technical director, Howard Wilkinson, said last week and Hoddle agrees.

"This game is all about the future," he said, although he shrugged off questions about it being a turning point in English football's development.

That, he said, has been a gradual process. "If we change the structure and concentrate on the youngsters, I can see us becoming better tactically and technically," he added.

"The long-ball game had

some success because of the

rigid 4-4-2 system. That's what

was so sad about our football. I

always thought that if ever I was

a coach I would do it different-



Cesare Maldini, the Italian coach, prepares Gianfranco Zola (left) for Saturday's crucial World Cup game in training yesterday

Photograph: Empics

ly. In the last five years since we have changed the shape of the pitch, as I term it, with sometimes three at the back and sometimes one up front, we have been catching up with Italy, Spain and France. It was only mentally that you had to break down barriers with our players.

"We now have the defenders who can play in a back four or a three and strikers who can drop

into midfield. We have more agility on our defensive side. Sol Campbell, for example, has got that mobility and I think we will get better once we change the thinking right through from eight to 15-year-olds. We will see in 10 years' time."

There was a conviction to Hoddle's words, which is clearly matched by his players – and it had nothing to do with the

Italian photographer seeking compensation from Paul Gascoigne after a court case in Rome and whom England's security presence was seeking to avoid as the squad was last night whisked to its training complex just outside the city, where it will spend the next three days. They had, it seemed, shed the excess baggage of the past.

● Ciro Ferrara's condition has improved and the defender is now considered likely to start against England. Ferrara

strained a hamstring in a league match with Juventus on Sunday.

The new England, Ken Jones, page 50

Zinfandel?

Didn't I back him in the National?

Gascoigne 'could be locked up'

Paul Gascoigne could find himself being detained by Italian police as he prepares to face Italy in England's crucial World Cup qualifier, a lawyer in Italy claimed yesterday.

Gascoigne's legal troubles date back to his spell at Lazio and an incident in Rome's city centre on 27 January, 1994, when he assaulted a paparazzi photographer, Lino Nanni.

Gascoigne was convicted in his absence on 17 March this year and given a suspended jail sentence of three months. However, Nanni's lawyer Edmondo Zappacosta told the *Gazzetta dello Sport* that they now want to use Gascoigne's presence in Rome to press

their case for compensation.

Questioned over what could be his next move, Zappacosta said: "Asking the judge for the player to be detained as a precautionary measure. My client and I are evaluating the situation, but we don't want to have to resort to making any dramatic entrances like at the stadium."

"Gascoigne has been notified at every stage of the case, but has always ignored the affair. He hasn't even appointed a lawyer, which has had to be done for him. All we are asking for today is a gesture of goodwill. Because one thing is certain, sooner or later the player will have to pay Nanni damages. There is no escaping Italian justice."

EU attack on pay television

European Union officials have strongly criticised the trend which has seen crucial football matches – such as Saturday's World Cup qualifier between England and Italy – move to pay television stations.

That trend is likely to continue with Fifa, the sport's world governing body, planning to limit guaranteed free and live transmission of 2002 World Cup to just four of the 64 games.

"People should have access free of charge," the European Union Commissioner Karel Van Miert said. "I really cannot imagine that people would only be able to receive such events through pay television." The 15 EU nations are expected to approve proposals that would guarantee EU citizens the right to watch major sporting events live and free on television.

● Uefa has split the fixtures for the fifth round of the Champions' League games into two nights. With no Cup-Winners' Cup matches scheduled for Thursday 27 November, half of the 12 Champions' League games scheduled for Wednesday 26 have been put back 24 hours. Newcastle will visit Barcelona on the Wednesday, while Manchester United will entertain Kusice on the Thursday.

Sliding tackle under threat

Fifa has called for players to be banned from launching themselves into tackles to protect the game's most gifted players.

"We absolutely have to take out aggression, especially in games where a lot is at stake," Sepp Blatter, secretary-general of football's world ruling body, said yesterday, adding that Fifa should "ban all this sliding". "Players like Ronaldinho are being kicked to pieces these days and that is not acceptable."

He added that Fifa want to introduce professional referees in league's worldwide, "between now and the year 2000."

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3425. Thursday 9 October
By Sparcus

Wednesday's solution

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1				9			
10			11				
12				13			
14			15		16		
17			18	19	20		
21	22		23		24		
25			26				
27		28					

ACROSS

- 1 Pay for some dental work? (10)
- 6 Club husband's joined in the city? (4)
- 10 Soomingly endless hassle finally leads to rental arrangement? (7)
- 11 Tawdry souvenir one missed, being somewhat edgy? (7)
- 12 Court pursuing underworld in France and Spain to eliminate filth? (9)
- 13 Ambition lately associated with the aestival solstice? (5)
- 14 Switzerland always given root of encouragement? (5)
- 15 So uncle is out to secure some privacy? (9)
- 17 Greek character returning to university in Lombardy, for instance, is shunned? (9)

DOWN

- 1 Runners not members of the hating side? (5)
- 2 Fail to demonstrate one's up to the job? (9)
- 3 Small unstable country which needs a hand? (6,8)
- 4 Complaint from one given lines reaching the Head? (7)
- 5 Concerned with heredity, etc, in early stages of embryo growth, possibly? (7)
- 21 One worker's about to take refuge in mission — most peculiar? (9)
- 22 Battered neolith suggestive of special means of communication? (7)
- 26 Publication is taking legal action? (7)
- 27 Punish each, with king — that's the point? (4)
- 28 Terms for US students — those who attempt to pen Middle English stanza? (10)
- 29 Pragmatic attitude is required in the province? (7)
- 30 Insult rather too much for right-wing extremist? (5)
- 31 To use chemical weapon is indicative of old habits? (5)

Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5HU, and printed at Merton Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford. Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01992 540100. This day 11/10/97 1997. Restored as newspaper with the Post Office.

0800 731 1674
ERNEST & JULIO GALLO
CALIFORNIA